Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 309 | TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2008 | www.saipantribune.com 50¢

Lynn Tenorio's contract with DPH not renewed. **PAGE 3**

Obama a favorite in SSHS mock election. **PAGE 6**

13K voters troop to polls today to select 1st NMI delegate

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth will elect its first-ever congressional delegate today, exactly 22 years after Northern Marianas residents were granted U.S. citizenship.

Some 13,000 voters are expected to cast their ballots in the historic election, as the Commonwealth marks Citizenship Day, the day that President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the U.S. trusteeship agreement under the United Nations no longer applicable to the CNMI and, under the terms of the Covenant, declared qualified residents of the CNMI became U.S. citizens.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial urged all registered voters to go out and vote for the

See 13K on Page 4

Ballots to be counted manually

"We're only able to advance a portion of our budget for the new fiscal year, but we did not get the money that was supposed to be reprogrammed for this election. So the commissioners decided to do a manual count of the ballots."

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ballots cast for the Commonwealth's first-ever federal election will be hand-counted due to lack of funding.

This is the first time since 1999 the Commonwealth Election Commission will count ballots manually. The Election Commission bought two counting machines in 2001 and has used it ever since. However, the equipment will sit idle this election, as the commission could not afford to order ballots that are compatible with the machines.

See BALLOTS on Page 4

WHERE TO VOTE

DISTRICT	VILLAGE	PRECINCT
ED No. 1A	San Antonio	San Antonio Elementary School
ED No. 1B-1	San Vicente	San Vicente Elementary School
ED No. 1-B-2		San Vicente Elementary School
ED No. 1-B-3		San Vicente Elementary School
ED No. 1C	Koblerville	Koblerville Elementary School cafeteria
ED No. 2	Chalan Kanoa/Susupe	Municipal Council Office
ED No. 3-A	Oleai	Oleai Elementary School cafeteria
ED No. 3-B-1	Garapan	Garapan Elementary School
ED No. 3-B-2		Garapan Elementary School
ED No. 3-B-3		Garapan Elementary School
ED No. 4A	Tanapag	Tanapag Youth Center
ED No. 4B	San Roque	San Roque Elementary School cafeteria
ED No. 4C	Capital Hill	Legislature Building
ED No. 4D	Northern Islands	
ED No. 5-1	Kagman	Kagman Community Center
ED No. 5-2		Kagman Community Center
ED No. 6	Tinian	Tinian Youth Center
ED No. 7	Rota	Rota NMC Campus

Source: Commonwealth Election Commission

These desktop snapshots show the saipanbaby.com and babysaipan.com Web sites, which invite Chinese and Japanese women to give birth on Saipan to obtain U.S. citizenship for their children.

Web sites promote NMI as a place to have babies

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For a cost of $15,000 to $40,000, two Web sites are advertising services to Chinese and Japanese women to have their babies on Saipan, in order for the children to gain U.S. citizenship.

Both saipanbaby.com and babysaipan.com list the 14th Amendment and birthright citizenship as reasons to

See WEB on Page 4

Visit us online @ www.saipantribune.com

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Would you agree to the marine monument proposal if the CNMI regains local control of its submerged lands?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

35 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

Election Fever
Barack Obama and John McCain uncork get-out-the-vote operations in more than a dozen battleground states.

NATION...Page 15

I'm Done
Joaquin Phoenix confirmed a surprise announcement he made last week: He's giving up movies.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

Local

Living with diabetes: One teenager's story

KRISTI EATON

Zach Babauta shares his story of living with diabetes as Rita Cruz, a caregiver advocate; Gov. Benigno Fitial; Joseph Kevin Villagomez, Secretary of Public Health; and Lynn Tenorio, a founder of the Diabetes Coalition, listen.

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

At one point, Zach Babauta said his struggle with diabetes got so bad that he wanted to take his own life.

At yesterday's Diabetes Awareness Month proclamation, Babauta shared his story of living with the illness.

"Most girls avoided me because they thought it was a disease," he said. "One kid said you can't have kids, so don't even try."

At that point, Babauta said tearing up, "I started to doubt myself and told myself I just want to commit suicide."

Then one day, he said, a friend told him about a basketball team. Babauta joined and that is where he met George Cruz, chair of the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition and president and CEO of Marianas Health Services, Inc.

"He helped me change my life," he said.

Babauta said he has done things that many people, including family and friends, never thought he could do, such as graduating high school and going to college. But one thing he has still not been able to do is get into the Marines, he said, but that will not stop him from looking forward.

"My name is Zachary Babauta, and I am a diabetic. And I will never give up," he told the audience.

Babauta is one of 3,500 in the CNMI with diabetes, although that number only accounts for the people who seek treatment. Health officials said they believe the number is actually higher.

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said prevention and awareness are important to combat the disease.

Diabetes Awareness Month is coupled with Home Health Care Month, a pairing that fits well, he said.

"The great thing about coupling the two is that taking care of a diabetic is a daily thing," he said, adding that those in the health care industry are experienced at taking care of diabetic patients.

"Diabetes is not an individual disease," he said. "It's a family disease, and therefore it becomes a community disease."

Man allegedly beats up his girlfriend over wrong DVD

An intoxicated man allegedly beat up his girlfriend Saturday after she tried to stop him from breaking their television set with a hammer.

Bernardo Batoto Pineda, 48, of Central Garapan,was apprehended for assault and battery. A $1,000 cash bail was imposed for his temporary liberty.

Pineda was set for a bail hearing yesterday afternoon before Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman.

The victim suffered a bump on the head and a half-inch cut on the left wrist.

Detective Simon T. Manacop stated in his report that Pineda and some friends had been drinking since morning of Saturday. At 3:30pm that day, Pineda came home and got mad after learning that a DVD disc he had purchased from a store was the wrong one.

The defendant broke the DVD disc into pieces using a hammer. Not satisfied, he was about to hit their TV set with the hammer but the girlfriend blocked him.

Pineda allegedly pushed the girlfriend on the chest, causing her head to hit the TV shelf. He allegedly shoved her again to the side then kicked her in the stomach when she tried to get up.

When the victim noticed her left hand was bleeding, she ran to a friend's room and asked the friend to text her cousin to inform her as to what had just happened.

The cousin then called the police. When the police later arrived at the apartment, Pineda was found asleep in the room. He was arrested. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

© 2008 Continental Airlines, Inc.

LAU LAU BAY
TO TUMON BAY.

Take advantage of our terrific fare to your Marianas Island neighbor Guam.

Whether it's your overnight bag or your golf bag, now is a great time to hop on over to Guam for a quick getaway. Plus, you'll be earning miles on OnePass®, our frequent flyer program. For reservations call Continental Airlines at (866) 359-6453, or visit continental.com.

(Fare below is based on oneway travel. Fuel surcharge included.)

SAIPAN TO GUAM ONEWAY
$91

Continental Airlines
Continental Connection

Work Hard.
Fly Right.®

Round Trip price $138 not including fuel surcharge of $44 and taxes of as much as $27.36. Travel Period: Travel must commence: Immediately to November 30, 2008. Last ticket date: November 15, 2008. Applicable Routing: SPN-GUM-SPN. Flight Restriction: Travel permitted is "NOT" permitted on the following flights: 9606, 9596, 9603, 9317. Res/Ticketing: Tickets must be issued 1 day after confirmation of booking or at least 1 day prior to scheduled departure whichever is earlier but not later than November 15, 2008. Minimum stay: No restrictions. Maximum stay: No restrictions. Stopovers: Not permitted. Wait List: Not permitted. Other Discounts: Accompanied child 2-11 - NO DISCOUNT. Infant under 2 with seat- NO DISCOUNT. Infant under 2 without seat - charge 10% of the fare. Unaccompanied child 5-11 - NO DISCOUNT. Senior Citizen - NO DISCOUNT. AD/TC - NOT PERMITTED. OnePass® upgrades and other marketing programs - PERMITTED. Penalties: Changes to Itinerary- anytime - NOT PERMITTED. Cancellation - TICKETS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE. Flight operated by Cape Air pursuant to a code share agreement with Continental Airlines.

Hawaii
Bar & Grill

Good Friends
Good Food

"Broke da Mouth"

Smoke Free
WiFi Available

Dinner 5:00-11:00 p.m. Monday-Saturday
Across Hyatt Regency Hotel
next to Primo's Sports Bar
233-8200

Lynn Tenorio's contract with DPH not renewed

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lynn Tenorio is no longer deputy secretary for Public Health, after her contract was not renewed.

Tenorio's contract was not renewed Oct. 16. Her last day in the position was Oct. 31.

"I respect the Administration's position and authority regarding the personnel it may need to carry out its agenda with DPH," she said. "I am very appreciative of the opportunity to have been involved in the programs at the Division of Public Health and my work with the dedicated staff at the department."

Joseph Kevin Villagomez, Secretary of Public Health, said he did not know why Tenorio's contract was not renewed.

During the governor's weekly cabinet meeting yesterday, Villagomez said he told Fitial that John Tagabuel would be the acting Deputy Secretary, replacing Tenorio. Tagabuel was manager of the Bureau of Environmental Health.

"We'll do the work we're supposed to do," Villagomez said.

He said Tenorio did a good job as deputy secretary for Public Health.

"She ran professional and great programs," he said. "She ran it very well."

Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office, said the administration does not discuss employee contracts.

"Generally we don't comment on personnel issues," he said.

There is no expectation for employment for government employees, he said.

Tenorio has been with DPH since 2006. Before that she was the coordinator of the Diabetes Prevention and Control Program.

During her time as Deputy Secretary, she helped double federal funding for the department from $3 to $4 million to more than $6 million. Under Tenorio's leadership, two cancer programs and the Women's, Infants and Children's program were created.

"[The WIC program] is an ongoing process because it's multifaceted," she said.

Some say, "he lacks experience" but I say experience doesn't guarantee success. Look at where experience has let us. Lack of experience can be a good thing because it makes us ask 'Why' and 'How' instead of 'IT WON'T WORK' and 'I KNOW BETTER'. It can motivate us and motivation leads to hard work and hard work leads to success. Some say, "he's an outsider" but I say my wife (Dora Ulloa Palacios-Won) is local; my kids are local so how can I be an outsider. Please don't judge me for what I am but who I am, a husband, a father, your friend, your neighbor who is willing to make a difference for the betterment of the CNMI. Come this November 4th, I humbly ask for your vote of confidence. Have **FAITH, VOTE CHONG M. WON #2**. Thank you.

Paid for by Committee to Elect Chong M. Won

Bellas says GOB had problems with banks

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The now defunct Garment Oversight Board encountered problems with several banks in the distribution of the class lawsuit settlement funds.

Timothy H. Bellas, chairman of the terminated GOB, stated in his report that the GOB previously disclosed several issues encountered in distributing the large number of almost 14,000 checks using its limited staff.

Bellas said in addition, there have been difficulties in the distribution of the residual settlement fund checks since the checks were sent out to class members with an admonition stamped on each check that they would not be "re-issued" after the expiration of 60 days.

This was done, the former judge said, in an effort to close the board's operations by July 31, 2008.

Bellas said that several of the financial institutions to which the checks have been presented interpreted the stamped language to mean that the checks would not be honored after the passage of 60 days.

The other problem, Bellas said, is that there have also been a number of residual settlement fund checks that were sent to the class members' address, provided by the claims administrator, in the workers' country of origin.

"However, some of these workers are still located on Saipan and relatives or friends have forwarded the checks to them back here on Saipan. This process has resulted in those checks actually becoming stale and non-negotiable," he said.

In an effort to get as much of the residual settlement fund checks to the workers, Bellas said, the board continued to re-issue any checks that have been returned via mail because of the problems.

The re-issuance of checks was the reason why the then GOB proposed to the federal court that while GOB's existence would end Friday, Oct. 31, 2008, there should be "caretaker operations" as its checking account will not be closed until Dec. 31, 2008.

Bellas reported that GOB still has in its possession $883,520.11 in grand total of class lawsuit settlement funds.

Upon closing the account on Dec. 31, 2008, Bellas said, all checks not cashed by that time shall be void or voided and he shall be authorized to transfer the balance of the checking account to a new Garment Worker Trust Fund account.

Upon the expiration of the Trust Fund, Bellas said, the trustees would solicit proposals from non-profit charitable organizations in the community, with the court's approval. The trustees will then donate the remaining money to the chosen organization.

CNMI govt to honor 1,400 vets in CNMI on Nov. 11

The Military and Veterans Affairs Office said the CNMI government would be extending its appreciation to those who have served freedom's cause during the commemoration of Veterans' Day on Nov.11.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will lead the ceremonies at the Court of Honor inside the American Memorial Park.

The activities will start at 11am with Maj. Stephen D. Tom, chief of staff for the U.S. Pacific Command in Hawaii, as the keynote speaker.

Ruth Coleman, VMA executive director, said there are about 1,400 veterans in the CNMI.

VMA said the occasion would be an appropriate time for the government to salute members of the Armed Forces who are confronting "our adversaries abroad."

"We honor the men and women who left America's shores but did not live to be thanked as veterans," a statement from the VMA said yesterday.

VMA is calling all veterans, active and reserve military members, their families, family members of those departed veterans, the local Marine Scouts and the public to join the celebration.

Before the Nov. 11 special day, Fitial will be signing the Veterans Week Proclamation at the Governor Office's conference room tomorrow, Nov. 5.

The signing will be at 10am, to be attended by the veterans and their family members.

In related development, Coleman said Congress has just adopted a resolution that seeks to create a Veterans Affairs Clinic and VA benefits office in the CNMI.

The Resolution would be sent to the U.S. VA office in Honolulu headed by Dr. James Hastings, VA Director of Health. ***(Nazario Rodriguez)***

Car sales up nearly 6 percent in October

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Auto Dealer's Association reported an increase of 5.88 percent in the number of new cars sold in October 2008 compared to the same month last year.

According to the latest CADA data released yesterday, the CNMI's three car dealers reported sales of 36 units of brand new cars last month, better than the 34 units sold in October 2007.

Joeten Motors, Microl Corp. and Triple J Motors sold a total of 20 cars, four trucks, one van, and 11 sports utility vehicles.

The data showed that Microl Corp., which sells Toyota, Chevrolet and other brands, sold 16 brand new units, to stake out 44.44 percent in market share.

Joeten Motors, the distributor of Nissan, Ford, Honda, Kia and other brands, sold 13 brand new units, a market share of 36.11 percent, while Triple J Motors, which sells Hyundai, Mitsubishi, Isuzu, Susuki, Mazda and others, has 19.44 percent share, with seven units sold.

Toyota remained the top selling brand with 15 unites sold last month.

Nissan and Ford both sold four units each. Honda and Mazda were able to sell three units each, while Kia, Hyundai and Mitsubishi each sold two units. Chevrolet sold only one unit.

CADA also noted an increase of 1.32 percent in car sales on a year to date report as the three dealers sold a total of 536 cars from January to October. This is compared to last year's sales of only 529 cars sold for the same time period.

The 2008 brand new car sales included 139 SUVs, 297 cars, 52 trucks, 42 vans, and six others.

Sales in used cars also posted an increase from 33 units in September to 38 units in October.

Sales in used cars showed 136 total units sold from January to October.

Both Microl Corp. and Joeten Motors sold 13 units of used cars each, claiming 34.2 percent market share. Following closely is Triple J, which sold 12 units of used cars, representing 31.6 percent in market share.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

A customer checks out the engines of used cars for sale in this file photo.

13K

From Page 1

CNMI's first non-voting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

"I am appealing to all voters to join me in electing our very first delegate to the U.S. Congress," said Fitial, who will be voting in Election Precinct 3-B at the Garapan Elementary School today.

While not officially endorsing any of the nine candidates, the governor called on the voters "to select the candidate most likely to protect our economy, our jobs, and our rights under our Covenant agreement with the United States."

"The people of the Commonwealth will elect a delegate to represent them, not the federal government, in Washington, D.C.," said Fitial. "I believe this delegate should protect the rights of the people under the Covenant. And among those rights are the right to local self-government and the right to a progressively higher standard of living for our Commonwealth."

Expectations

Interviews with local voters indicate the electorate's basic expectations from whoever wins the election.

Pauline Arurang, a Kagman resident and mother of three children, said she hopes the winning candidate will do something to help reduce the cost of power and ensure that the day-to-day operations of the schools are not interrupted by power outages and water problems.

For Joaquin Sablan, a local resident and president of the nonprofit group Napu Life Foundation, the main task of the CNMI's first delegate should be to help improve the local economy and promote better relations between the CNMI and the United States. "We need someone who can communicate our needs to Congress," he said.

Endorsement

The campaign of Pete A. Tenorio, the CNMI's incumbent resident representative to Washington, D.C., yesterday released copies of letters from two key Republican members of Congress supporting his bid for delegate.

Oklahoma Rep. Tom Cole, chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, in his letter said Tenorio's inclusion in Congress "will add a wealth of experience in regards to issues that are most important to the people of the CNMI."

"Your work on issues like energy, healthcare, education, defense, among a host of other important matters that you have worked closely with me and other members of Congress, will make you an asset in Congress," Cole said.

Oklahoma Representative and House Republican Leader John Boehner also endorsed Tenorio's candidacy and welcomed Tenorio, if elected, to caucus with House Republicans during the 111th Congress, which is expected to remain under Democrat control.

"While delegates to the House cannot cast a deciding vote on legislation on the floor, they can cast important votes and do substantive work on the committee level. As a result of your experience, it is my intention to support your assignment to the House Natural Resources Committee, which includes the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs," Boehner said.

Cooperation

Fitial, in a statement, pledged to work with the new delegate next year. He said he will encourage the new delegate to address deficiencies in the federalization law and in the federal minimum wage law as it applies to both the CNMI and American Samoa. He will also urge the delegate to push for CNMI's call for control over its submerged lands.

"The delegate provision of the federalization law is the only good portion of the new federal law," said Fitial. "Although I had long supported the establishment of a non-voting delegate for the CNMI, I wish this issue was treated separately from the federalization law; I had hoped that we would have received a delegate before the federalization of our local labor laws."

Candidates

In addition to Tenorio, the other candidates running for delegate are Sen. Luis Crisostimo, former Election Commission executive director Gregorio C. Sablan, retired judge Juan T. Lizama, former senator David Cing, Saipan municipal councilor Felipe Atalig, local television talk show John Oliver Gonzales, high school teacher John Davis, and businessman Chong Won.

Of the candidates, only Tenorio, a Republican, has strong ties with a national political party. Cing represents the Northern Marianas Democratic Party, which has yet to get official recognition from its national counterpart. Crisostimo claims to be a member of the national Democratic Party, but is running as an independent after the local Democrats declined to endorse him. All of the other candidates are running as independents.

Delegate Act

The Northern Marianas is the last U.S. jurisdiction to get congressional representation The law, which in May 2008 granted the Commonwealth the delegate seat, also allowed Washington to take over labor and immigration controls in the Commonwealth.

Under the measure, Northern Marianas will have a representative with limited voting powers to the U.S. House of Representatives. Similar to House members and other delegates, the CNMI delegate will be elected to Congress every two years. He can serve on committees, as well as vote on legislation at the committee level. But floor voting will not be permitted.

The CNMI delegate will receive the same compensation, allowances, and benefits as a member of the House of Representatives. Each member of Congress is paid almost $170,000 a year.

To be eligible, a candidate must be at least 25 years old, a U.S. citizen and CNMI resident for at least seven years before the election, and a qualified CNMI voter on the date of the election. A candidate for CNMI delegate must not be running for any other office.

The CNMI delegate will assume office on the third day of January after the election.

WEB

From Page 1

have babies in the Commonwealth.

Babysaipan.com lists nine reasons to have a baby with U.S. citizenship. The reasons include: once 21 years of age, children can help their parents gain citizenship; free education for primary and secondary education and low-cost college education; visa-free travel to most countries; and pension and medical insurance.

A woman answering the phone number listed on the babysaipan.com Web site said she does not speak English. Several "Chinese consultants" are listed on the Web site, including Yang Baby, which helps Chinese women, for a fee, to have children in the U.S. or Canada. A woman named Jane answered the phone for a number listed on the Yang Baby web site. Jane, a Chinese woman who lives in the U.S. mainland, said women typically stay in her friends' homes. Some families have two or more children in the States, she said.

When asked if she thought the practice was taking advantage of birthright citizenship, she said the babies must get a U.S. birth certificate to receive benefits and the mothers do not receive the same benefits.

A frequently asked question on babysaipan.com said, "we will explain in detail" about how to handle entering immigration while pregnant.

For a three-month stay, Babysaipan.com offers women a deluxe room, which includes maid service, three meals a day, air conditioning, a bed, and telephone and Internet services. A luxury room includes maid services, three meals a day, bed, LCD TV, air conditioning, Internet service, cordless phone and crib. Prices were not listed on the Web site, but it does not hospital fees, airline tickets or costs for labor complications.

Saipanbaby.com offers similar services for 60 days, ranging in cost from $15,000 to $40,000. E-mailed questions were sent to the address provided on the site, but a representative did not respond to questions by press time.

Melvin Grey, director for the CNMI's Division of Immigration, said the practice of providing services for women to have their babies in the CNMI is fairly common, but that under the 14th Amendment there is nothing the Commonwealth or United States Immigration officers can do.

"It's not illegal, that's the whole thing," he said. "Even the United States mainland has problems."

He said immigration officials in the U.S. sometimes ask pregnant women if they can prove they are able to pay for their stay and what their intent of entering the country is, but once the women can show proof, they are legally able to enter the country.

"[U.S. immigration officials] have a hard time doing anything with it, because the lady says, 'I'm visiting friends, I'm not that far along,'" Grey said.

CNMI Immigration officers do not ask pregnant women why they are coming to the Commonwealth, Grey said.

"We don't even want to get into that area at all," he said. "We don't want to stress a lady out," adding that stress could cause a premature delivery or other complications.

Grey said the Immigration Division does look at other issues related to businesses offering the services.

"There are side issues we have looked into: Is the person running a business without a license? Are they reporting taxes?" he said.

Assistant Attorney General Alex Gorman, legal counsel for the Commonwealth Health Center and Department of Public Health, said he knew people were bringing women to Saipan to have babies but did not know there were Web sites advertising the services.

Although there are two pictures of CHC on the saipanbaby.com web site, Gorman said CHC and DPH are not involved or condone the practice.

"I am sure CHC did not authorize the use of those pictures," he said an in e-mail. "I will discuss with management DPH/CHC's options. However, I don't think it is very easy to police Web sites, i.e., its nearly impossible, especially those located in foreign jurisdictions."

Two similar Web sites, advertising services to Korean women to have babies in Guam, were shut down last week.

BALLOTS

From Page 1

The ballots cost approximately $16,000, according to acting CEC executive director Julita Villagomez.

Earlier this year, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed a bill reprogramming $60,000 from the fiscal year 2008 budget of the Washington Representative's Office to fund the election. But Jermae R. Cabrera, administrative specialist and data analyst at CEC, said the commission "never got the money."

"We're only able to advance a portion of our budget for the new fiscal year, but we did not get the money that was supposed to be reprogrammed for this election. So the commissioners decided to do a manual count of the ballots," said Cabrera.

The polls will be open from 7am to 7pm today. However, the ballots will not be processed until 12 midnight. The counting will be held at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Cabrera expressed hope that the tabulation and counting of the ballots will not take long, since the election is only for one position and there are only 13,000 registered voters.

SSHS junior sworn in as BOE student rep

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Francine Babauta is the newest member of the Public School System's Board of Education.

Babauta, a junior at Saipan Southern High School, was sworn in as the student representative at last week's regularly scheduled meeting.

"I hope to gain a better perspective on what PSS does to gain experience for my future and understand how they [the Board members] make decisions," Babauta said.

As a student representative, Babauta will not vote on issues but will be able share her point of view with the Board, something BOE chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita said the Board looks forward to.

"We encourage her to work with the various student groups from our schools and Youth Congress to offer recommendations that could improve our school system," Blanco-Maratita said in an e-mail.

One of the issues Babauta said she is passionate about is class size. Some classes have 46 students, she said, and her PE class currently has 60 students.

"So it's hard to learn," she said, adding that she appreciates the work PSS and BOE officials have already done to combat the problem.

SSHS's principal, Peter Le'au, nominated Babauta for the position after her sophomore English teacher recommended her. Gov. Benigno Fitial appointed her to the Board in September.

Blanco-Maratita said student representatives rotate between Saipan, Rota and Tinian. Because Saipan Southern High is a new school, this is the first time they have had a student representative on the Board.

Louvele Borja, from Tinian High School, was the last student representative. She graduated in June.

Meanwhile, Blanco-Maratita said BOE members are still waiting for Fitial to appoint a teacher representative to the Board. Board members wrote a reminder letter to the governor in early October, but have not heard back from him, she said.

KRISTI EATON

From left to right, Tonya King, BOE member; Herman Guerrero, BOE vice chair; MarylouAda, BOE member; Lucy Blanco-Maratita, BOE chair; Francine Babauta, BOE student representative; Mr. and Mrs. Babauta; Craig Garrison, Saipan Southern High vice principal; and Rita Sablan, PSS education commissioner.

Ex-convict gets 5-year term for assaulting cop, parole violation

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has imposed a five-year prison term on an ex-convict who stole liquor from a store and assaulted a female police officer.

Wiseman sentenced Nickson Hartman to one year in prison, to run consecutively with his sentence on charges of theft, assault and battery, and resisting arrest.

Wiseman sentenced Hartman to five years in jail for admitting to have violated his probation in his 2005 criminal conviction.

The sentences in both cases, the judge said, shall run concurrently. It means that the total prison time for both cases is five years.

Hartman, a citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia, was given 186 days credit for the time has he already served in jail.

Wiseman remanded Hartman to the Department of Corrections and ordered that he be released to Immigration officials on March 1, 2013 for deportation.

The defendant and counsel, assistant public defender Douglas Hartig, signed a plea agreement with the government represented by assistant attorney general Rebecca Warfield.

Hartman pleaded guilty to theft, assault and battery, and resisting arrest. He conceded the parole violation in the 2005 case.

The plea agreement stated that on Feb. 29, 2008 on Saipan, Hartman purposely attempted to flee from Police Officer Catherine Pangelinan.

The defendant removed a bottle of rum from Dolphin Wholesale with the intent of stealing it. He was subsequently subdued and arrested.

At the time the offense was committed, Hartman was on probation.

According to a police report, when employees of Dolphin Wholesale confronted Hartman for shoplifting, he ran toward the San Jose Church.

When Pangelinan located Hartman in the men's restroom area on the third floor of the Morgen Building, he attempted to run away by pushing the officer out the doorway.

Pangelinan managed to hold him. As the two struggled, other officers arrived and secured Hartman.

Last New Year's Eve, Hartman reportedly stole a vehicle and engaged a police sergeant in a car chase from Garapan Elementary School to Capital Hill.

In May 2006, he was arrested after he reportedly burglarized a house on Capital Hill that he also burglarized a month earlier. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Obama a favorite in SSHS mock election

On Friday, Oct. 31, 2008, students enrolled in Social Studies classes at Saipan Southern High School participated in a mock U.S. presidential election.

The voting took place in the classrooms of Floyd Masga, Michelle Rasa and Shawna Sablan.

Students voted for either Republican candidate Sen. John McCain or Democratic candidate Sen. Barack Obama for the next president of the United States.

On Monday, Nov. 3, 2008, students in Masga's U.S. Government Honors course tallied the votes.

After several recounts, it was determined that out of the 316 students who voted, 85 percent voted for Obama as the 44th president of the United States. Only 15 percent of the students who voted favored Sen. John McCain in last week's mock election.

The election results from the students' mock election will be compared to the actual results of the U.S. national election. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students enrolled in Social Studies classes at Saipan Southern High School line up to participate in a mock U.S. presidential election.

Despite cheaper oil, green energy still a go

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Fitial administration says it will not abandon alternative energy projects despite the dropping oil prices.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, in a meeting with his Cabinet yesterday, expressed his continued interest in exploring the possibility of developing geothermal energy on Pagan.

"The governor is still bullish about the long-term prospects of renewable energy in the CNMI. Oil prices are ever fluctuating. We may be getting some relief now, but in the next six months or one year, it could go back up again," Reyes said.

The price of oil has plunged below $70, a huge drop from the record $147.27 set on July 11. The downward trend in crude prices has caused some relief at the pump. This month, it will show in the power bills as well, as electric rates drop by 6.7 cents per kWh. From 33.7 in October, the electric fuel rate charged by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be 27 cents this month.

"The governor is very pleased that we're going to be able to see some reduction in the power rates," Reyes said. "But he urged the Cabinet to continue conserving energy, not just because it saves the government money but also because it generally is good policy."

The U.S. Department of the Interior has offered the CNMI a $220,000 grant to study whether it is feasible to build a geothermal plant in one of the islands north of Saipan, most probably Pagan. Fitial has appointed his alternative energy adviser, former USGS volcano expert James Quick, to lead the ongoing effort.

Earlier this year, CUC issued a request for proposals for a renewable energy project. However, the utility stopped the procurement after the Office of the Public Auditor found flaws with the process. OPA said that while there was nothing improper about CUC's choice of procurement method, the criteria set forth in the RFP were not specific enough to ensure a fair selection.

Voter registration starts Dec. 1 for overseas Filipinos

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Philippine Consulate General on Saipan is informing Filipinos in the CNMI that the overseas absentee voters registration will start on Dec. 1.

There are about 9,000 qualified Filipino overseas absentee voters in the CNMI, according to Consul General Wilfredo Deleon Maximo.

Maximo said he expects a big increase in the voter turnout in the 2010 national elections after a dismal turnout in the 2007 senatorial polls.

He recalled that about 75 percent of registered voters here went to the polls when the first absentee voting system in the history of Philippine elections was held in the April 14, 2004, presidential elections.

That has dipped to not even a third in the senatorial elections 2007.

Maximo said Filipino voters are mostly interested in the national and presidential elections.

It would be the third time that Filipinos will participate in elections while they are away from home during the 2010 national elections.

Meanwhile, the consulate is upbeat about the newly-implemented program on Machine-Readable Passports.

The MRP is a travel document containing data that can be read both by the naked eye and by a machine/passport reader, which replaces hand-scripted passports.

MRPs contain the passport holder's information including a photograph with required biographical data printed in a standard format.

"People are getting used to it. They like the MRP," said Maximo.

He said it would take six weeks for the MRP to be processed because the applications are made in Manila. The process would take that long because of the time of sending it to Manila and getting it back.

Maximo said all applications for passport renewal should be filed well before expiration of the old passports.

Renewal applications may be filed anytime when the passport to be replaced has only six to one and a half months' remaining validity.

Maxino said the green Philippine passport, however, is still valid until the date of its expiry.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

BID POSTPONEMENT

The Pre-Bid Conference for the Homestead Development projects for Koblerville and Capital Hill is hereby postponed until further notice. Your understanding is appreciated.

John S. DelRosario, Jr.,
Secretary,
Department of Public Lands.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

American Samoa governor asks for another term

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—American Samoa's incumbent governor has used a televised address to ask for four more years in power. Campaign fervor is reaching a climax in American Samoa, with around 17,000 registered voters due to go to the polls today. The teams running for governor and lieutenant governor have now made their final pitch to voters on KVZK TV. Togiola Tulafono emphasized his achievements, and asked for another term. "When we walked Ofu recently, a young working mother said to Mary, we prefer the pristine manu'a to be left alone. That's the truth, so tonight, my fellow American Samoans, I ask you, to ask yourself, if we aren't better off today than we were four years ago, I say to you, without reservation, that your government is in good order."

Vanuatu commuters protest hike in bus fares

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—As Port Vila prepares for a 50 percent hike in public transport charges, the Vanuatu Government is being told it must step in because the people cannot cope with such a rise. Manina Packete, the chair of the National Council of Women, is supportive of the drivers, who need the increase, but many patrons will not be able to afford the rise to 150 vatu, or around one dollar 50 US. She says the Government needs to take action over the poor quality of the roads which often leave drivers with additional repair charges. Packete says the Government has to also come to the aid of the drivers over the cost of fuel, because the public will struggle to meet higher charges.

Shark fins confiscated off Cook Isles

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The U.S Coast Guard seized nearly 7 kilograms of shark fins late last week on board an American fishing vessel in the Cook Islands. The Coast Guard said in a statement that the 22 and a half meter ship, Pacific Horizon, based in San Diego, was boarded by a Coast Guard team and a law enforcement officer from the Cook Islands Ministry of Fisheries. The team found shark fins on board the boat, which is a violation of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1996. The Coast Guard will transfer the shark fins to National Marine Fisheries Service, whose specialists will make a decision whether or not a violation notice will be issued. The Coast Guard was able to board the vessel, even while in another country's Exclusive Economic Zone, due to a new agreement with the Cook Islands.

Fiji trade deficit jumps to $732 million

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive/PIR)—Fiji's trade deficit widened by about FJ$231 million to FJ$1.3 billion [US$130 million to US$732.2 million] in the first eight months of 2008, says the Reserve Bank of Fiji. According to the latest trade data, merchandise exports rose by 26.2 per cent, but the growth in imports more than offset this, the RBF said in its October Economic Review. It said this year performances in key sectors varied. Relatively strong growth has been recorded in visitor arrivals, gold, production and mineral water output, while the cane and sugar industries, as well as the building and construction sectors have registered notable declines," the RBF said. It said most other sectors showed little change. The report also highlighted the mixed outcomes of money and credit growth.

Grey says status of IRs remains uncertain

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The status of immediate relatives of CNMI permanent residents and of Federated States of Micronesia citizens remains uncertain until federal agencies come up with regulations under the federalization law, according to Immigration Director Melvin Grey.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Grey said the CNMI government and even the attorneys' association in the Commonwealth have expressed concern about the IRs' status.

"But we don't know what they [federal agencies] are going to do. Until they put [the regulations] in print, they won't tell us," Grey said.

Grey could not immediately provide the exact number of IRs of permanent residents and FSM citizens are in the CNMI.

He said the CNMI had already addressed the IRs issue by giving these people consideration, as it is not difficult to qualify for such a status.

"Those who commit fraud we're after them," Grey said.

The director noted that some IR people have no intention of applying for green cards. "They are happy to stay in the CNMI; they are not looking for green cards."

Grey said some IRs can't meet the income criteria and they can't afford the filing fee, which is $1,350.

"What are they [federal agencies] going to do with these folks? We don't have the answer yet. What time frame they will be given to file we don't know," he said.

Grey also pointed out that under the current U.S. laws, FSM citizens cannot take their alien spouses to the U.S.

"So what are they going to do with them? The issue has been brought up, but we don't have an answer," he said.

The director said the regulations are supposed to be out early this month.

Then federal Labor ombudsman Jim Benedetto in July said the Department of Homeland Security may come up with a solution on how to address the status of IRs of CNMI permanent residents. With respect to IRs of FSM citizens, Benedetto said he doesn't know the answer.

IN MEMORIAM CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Businessman Kenneth T. Jones Jr., president of Jones & Guerrero Co. Inc., passed away on Oct. 30. Memorial services will be held in Guam in the following weeks but there is no definite date yet for his burial. Jones' company included restaurants, construction firms, hotels, auto companies and shipping in Guam and on Saipan. Ken Jones is the older brother of Bob Jones, who owns Triple J and other businesses on Saipan.

FFA assists countries to board and prosecute fishing vessels

NUKU'ALOFA, TONGA— FFA Director General Su'a N.F. Tanielu opened the Prosecution and Dockside Boarding Workshop in Tonga yesterday. This workshop will assist local officers to board and inspect fishing vessels for offenses.

In Tonga this week, fisheries officers, police and maritime navy at the workshop will learn more about international law, national laws, regional and sub-regional fisheries agreements, fishing vessel boarding & evidence collections and court procedures.

FFA has provided these workshops for Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Tokelau, Tonga and Tuvalu.

In addition to fisheries and police or navy officers, crown law office staff and public prosecutions staff, officers in related roles such as immigration, customs and quarantine agencies have also attended the workshops.

A total of 380 participants from 13 FFA member countries have participated since 2005.

Officers doing boarding, inspection and evidence collection need an increased understanding of how fishing vessels operate and changes to international law and measures adopted by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, as well as their national laws, to do their work effectively. FFA's assistance provides expertise and training on the international legal instruments, regional agreements and national law to give officers a broader understanding of their work and its relation to prosecution of fishing vessels for offences.

The next workshop will be held in Niue shortly. These workshops will also be reviewed to examine possible improvements, including tailored programs for members without access to patrol boats.

Funding for the workshops is provided by FFA (www.ffa.int) and the UN Global Environment Facility program under the Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (www.ffa.int/gef). ***(PR)***

NMC English placement tests

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting an English placement test on the following days:

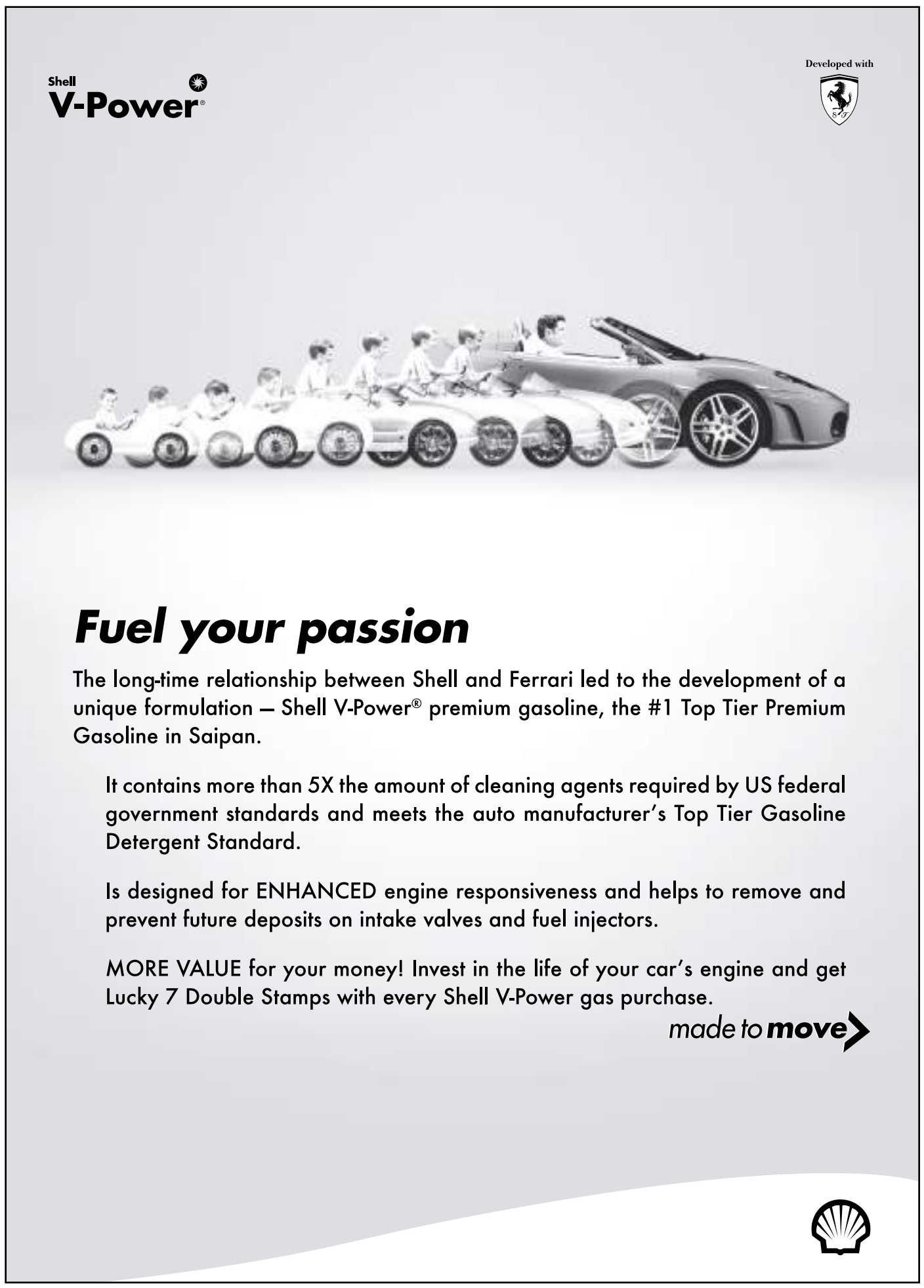
■ Dec. 10	5pm - 8pm	RoomD-1
■ Dec. 11	9am - 12pm	Room D-1
■ Jan. 8	5pm - 8pm	Room D-1
■ Jan. 9	1pm - 4pm	Room D-1
■ Jan. 14	9am - 12pm	Room A-6

No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils.

There is a $25 fee for the English Placement Test that must be paid in advance at NMC's Finance Office (Monday to Friday, 9am - 4pm). Students will not be admitted to the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for either the placement test fee or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

If you have any questions, call Mark Haag at the Languages & Humanities Dept. at (670) 234-5498 ext. 1733 or 1212. ***(NMC)***


Shell
V-Power
Developed with
Fuel your passion
The long-time relationship between Shell and Ferrari led to the development of a unique formulation – Shell V-Power® premium gasoline, the #1 Top Tier Premium Gasoline in Saipan.
It contains more than 5X the amount of cleaning agents required by US federal government standards and meets the auto manufacturer's Top Tier Gasoline Detergent Standard.
Is designed for ENHANCED engine responsiveness and helps to remove and prevent future deposits on intake valves and fuel injectors.
MORE VALUE for your money! Invest in the life of your car's engine and get Lucky 7 Double Stamps with every Shell V-Power gas purchase.
made to move

BEACH CLEANUP

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hopwood Junior High School My Wave Club members pose for a group photo after participating in the DEQ cleanup at the Tank Beach in Kagman last Saturday, Nov. 1. Other volunteers from PILCOWA, Laolao Golf Resort, United Construction Corp., Sanki, and other community organizations removed more than 1,000 lbs of trash from the beach.

MILITARY TRAVEL FAIR

The Marianas Visitor's Authority participates in two Guam military Travel Fairs that took place on Oct. 16 and 18 in Guam. The first show was the Annual Andersen Travel Fair, which took place in the heart of Andersen Air Force Base in the northern part of Guam. The second opportunity to show military personnel what Saipan, Tinian, and Rota have to offer came at the Navy 3rd Annual Travel Fair "Around the World At A Glance" which took place in the Top O' the Mar on Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

REY BELGADO

Students pose at the Domestic Violence Intervention Center booth during an event held in front of the Kristi Rai Church on Oct. 31, 2008.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy 32nd birthday to Verna Crisosotmo Debedebek. We love and miss you, sis! Sam, JJ and John.

DEPARTURE CEREMONY

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Family members of the 100th Battalion 442nd Infantry E-Company attend the departure ceremony in Killeen Texas, Fort Hood on Oct. 22.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

NOVEMBER 04, 1999

Strengthen fiscal discipline—Teno

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio issued fresh instructions to Cabinet officials to tighten public spending during a meeting he convened yesterday to assess the financial condition of the government amid the absence of a fiscal budget for year 2000. The Cabinet meeting—the first in more than two months—also discussed a plan by the administration to mark the millennium year on Dec. 31 with a grand celebration, although there is no guarantee of funding, according to officials.

Businessmen tighten belt to cope with economic slump

Thirty-two percent of 71 companies surveyed by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce had cut back work hours to cope with the sharp decline in the island's tourism economy, according to a survey released by the business group. In the past two years, when businesses in the island started to feel the pinch of the crisis spawned by Asian-wide currency crunch, 474.5 jobs had been eliminated after employers imposed the freeze-hiring policy aimed at paring down cost of operations.

NOVEMBER 04, 2002

Govt to set GHLI free

The Babauta Administration is set to submit to the Legislature tomorrow a proposed health insurance privatization bill, in efforts to offer a long-term solution to the current crisis besetting the Group Health and Life Insurance program. "I'm sending the draft legislation to the Legislature Tuesday. It's a draft suggesting to privatize the health insurance program of the government," Babauta said in an interview over the weekend.

EPA to tackle Saipan's groundwater woes

Officials of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will be on Saipan this month as the nation celebrates drinking water protection month EPA officials are expected to discuss the Commonwealth's groundwater problems with their local counterparts.

NOVEMBER 04, 2003

Heinz laments incumbents' defeat

The failure of seven incumbent House members to keep their seats—based on unofficial results from Saturday's midterm polls—was a big blow not only to the unsuccessful re-electionists themselves, but also to House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider. "As speaker, it's always hard not to feel responsible for any member losing the election. And I still feel that in as much as we have to respect the people's choices and opinions-and they have made a decision, on a personal level, it is still very difficult for me to deal with members who have lost the election. I've worked with them as their speaker for the last two years. And some of them I've worked for an extended number of years," he told reporters yesterday.

Absentee ballots coming in

The Commission on Election yesterday disclosed that some absentee ballots that were mailed out to off-island voters are now in the possession of the United States Postal Service. Absentee ballots will be tallied on November 15. According to election executive director Greg Sablan, the USPS has received an undisclosed number of absentee ballots from off-island voters even before the November 1, 2003 midterm election day.

November 04, 2004

High Court upholds congressman's conviction

The Supreme Court yesterday affirmed the conviction of House Rep. Norman Palacios for touching a woman's private part at a Tinian bar nearly three years ago. However, while the High Court, as a collegial body, agreed with the trial court's determination that Palacios was guilty of assault and battery, the justices were split in their opinion. The Superior Court had also convicted Palacios on a charge of disturbing the peace.

Guam casino initiative's defeat 'good' for CNMI

The defeat of the casino initiative on Guam is a good development for the CNMI tourism-wise, according to the House leadership. "It's positive. It's a positive development because, had it been passed, it would have given Guam an edge, a greater advantage [over the CNMI] in terms of competition in the tourism market," said House leadership spokesman Charles Reyes Jr.

Merill Lynch exec to talk about Fund's future

A ranking official of the NMI Retirement Fund's investment adviser, Merrill Lynch, will be the speaker at this Wednesday's general membership meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Kenan Knieriem, First Vice President and Account Executive in Charge of Merrill Lynch's Institutional Advisory Division in Honolulu, will discuss with Chamber members what historic, as well as current, challenges face the Fund, and what is being done or might be done to ensure the continued health of the NMIRF.

Merrill Lynch serves as the NMI Retirement Fund's consultant and investment advisor.

The NMI Retirement Fund has been historically challenged by the Commonwealth government's inability to meet its financial obligations. The most recent NMIRF actuarial report called for an employer contribution rate of somewhere around 36-37 percent; the government agreed to remit 11 percent.

Compounding this is the instability that has plagued world financial markets during this past year. The Fund has seen its portfolio value vary by tens of millions of dollars in a single day, or a few days, in the past months.

The Retirement Fund has approximately 9,000 members, the majority of whom live in the community. The long-term viability of the Fund is critical to local businesses and the local economy.

The meeting will be held tomorrow, Nov. 5, at Fiesta Resort's Azucena Rooms. Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at noon. The meeting is $15 for members, $20 for guests of members, and $25 for public. ***(SCC)***

Merrill Lynch Honolulu first vice president Kenan J. Knieriem delivers his presentation on Economic and Market Update during the Rotary Club of Saipan's weekly meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan in March 2008.
SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Court management experts assist the CNMI's Judiciary

The CNMI Judiciary met with federally-funded court management consultants last week as part of an ongoing process to upgrade court services, while, at the same time, improve its administrative efficiency.

After receiving a grant from the State Institute of Justice in 2007, the Judiciary has been regularly meeting with a team of consultants from the National Center for State Courts. In October 2007, Supreme Court justices, Superior Court judges, and other administrative leaders began working with NCSC consultants to develop a comprehensive plan for improving specific areas of the Judiciary.

During the last year, the Judiciary has worked to implement its plan. The Judiciary recently implemented computer software to assist them in managing the thousands of cases that are filed each year in CNMI courts. They also created guidelines for disposing of specific types of cases.

Last week, members of the Judiciary began creating and formalizing standard operating procedures. NCSC consultants John Douglas and Suzanne Tallarico spent four days in Saipan and one in Tinian meeting with key members of the Judiciary. During their trip, they gathered detailed information about the CNMI court system, observing and documenting its administrative protocol, while noting factors that should be addressed in creating the Judiciary's standard operating procedures.

The NCSC hopes to work with the Judiciary to complete its standard operating procedures within three months, allowing the Judiciary to accomplish a major milestone in improving its efficiency and productivity.

"In light of the economic struggles throughout the Commonwealth, we find it imperative that our court system run as efficiently and effectively as possible," Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan said. "We're confident that the time we spend with the NCSC consultants will help our courts better serve the community, as we upgrade our services while carrying out our responsibilities as judiciously as possible."

The Judiciary's decision to seek federal funding to improve its efficiency was exacerbated last year when its budget was reduced 18 percent. ***(PR)***

Iran woos Pacific, offers Solomons aid

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Times/PIR)—Iran's Foreign Minister, Manouchehr Mottaki, has said that Iran is ready to provide the Solomon Islands with engineering know-how to assist in its development aspirations.

In a meeting with the Solomon Islands Foreign Affairs Minister William Haomae, Mottaki said that areas in which Iran could help the Solomon Islands include energy, trade, education, industry, mining and urban development sectors.

"Iran has 100 years of experience in the field of oil industries. Cooperation within the framework of south-south countries is very useful," stated Mottaki.

William Haomae, for his part, called for making use of Iran's experiences within the framework of south-south countries. Haomae sought Iran's cooperation with his country in dam building, man power training, trade and oil and gas exploration.

He invited Mottaki to visit the Solomon Islands soon.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade has had to clarify the purpose of the trip after the Opposition Leader, Manasseh Sogavare, blasted the move saying that Iran "did not believe in the principles of democracy."

"Solomon Islands are yet to establish diplomatic relations with Iran. It has however signed a Cooperative Memorandum with Iran which basically allows for the two countries to explore specific cooperative arrangements, including the possibility of formalizing diplomatic relations.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN, MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 664-3500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
EMERGENCY POWER UPGRADES
AIP PROJECT NO. 3-69-0002-57
DESIGN-BUILD SERVICES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the Design and Construction of the Saipan International Airport Emergency Power Upgrade on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. It is the intent of CPA to expedite complete construction of this project.

A CD-Rom containing the scope of work and proposal package will be available on Wednesday, November 5, 2008 at the Office of the Acting Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($100.00)** for each CD-Rom. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held for this project at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 12, 2008, at the CPA Airport Conference Room. All questions prior to the pre-proposal conference must be submitted in writing to Mr. Ignacio L. Perez, Acting Executive Director or faxed to (670) 234-5962, no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, November 10, 2008.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Saipan International Airport Emergency Power Upgrade, Design/Build Services". One original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2008**, to the Office of the Acting Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

The offerer shall submit with their proposal the following:

1. Letter of interest
2. Project Approach (detailing how the work will be accomplished inclusive of layout and one line diagram)
3. D-B Construction Team
4. Related past project performance (include commendations or certifications if available)
5. Design and Construction Timeline
6. Available resources to accomplish the project
7. Cost proposal (in itemized SOW format)
8. Valid CNMI Business License

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications which should include résumés and experience of personnel that will be directly in charge of the project. Note that either party of the design consultant/contractor team that submits a proposal cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different design/build teams.

Project approach, timeline and cost must be within the parameters of the established Statement of Work (SOW). Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, will be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1.	Total cost for design and construction	30%
2.	Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff	20%
3.	Experience of the firm on similar or related projects	20%
4.	D-B Construction time frame	15%
5.	Project Approach	15%

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals. Award of a contract is contingent upon prior approval from FAA.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.
All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax. Proposers shall also include performance and payment bonds premium (payment and performance issued by a U.S. treasury listed bonding company) required for this project. Performance bond shall be extended to cover the warranty period of the project.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. IGNACIO L. PEREZ
Acting Executive Director

Date: November 3, 2008

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 309

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

I WAITED and WAITED BUT HE NEVER SHOWED UP.
WELCOME GREAT PUMPKIN
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.
WELCOME OCTOBER SURPRISE
McCAIN
©2008 THE AUGUSTA CHRONICLE 10/31
APOLOGIES TO SCHULZ

EDITORIAL

The Wurzelbacher effect

Whatever Tuesday's voting brings, the national conversation sparked by the driveway encounter between Barack Obama and Joe the Plumber seems likely to have a lingering, and potentially destructive, effect. Consider: Eight years ago, George W. Bush was selling himself to the country as a compassionate conservative. Today, it is hard to detect even the faintest note of compassion in John McCain's railing against Mr. Obama as "redistributionist in chief."

The tired trope of campaigns past—Democrats as voracious tax-and-spenders—has been augmented in the closing days of Campaign 2008 with the accusation of socialistic wealth-spreading. The two charges are related but fundamentally different, in ways that matter for the future debate about the proper role of government. The tax-and-spend charge goes to the question of the size of government; the spread-the-wealth charge goes to the core of government's function. It is fair to worry about taxes being so high that they impede growth, or the safety net so comfortable that it discourages work. But Mr. McCain's anti-redistributionist argument, taken seriously, has profound implications for the nature of modern American government and the stability of the post-New Deal consensus about the government as ultimate safety net.

Take a look at the biggest-ticket items in the federal budget: Almost all, outside of spending on defense and veterans, are premised on at least an element of wealth-spreading. In Social Security, as the Congressional Budget Office has calculated, retirees who earned less get back a greater share of what they put into the system than higher-earning retirees; the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program provides extra help for low-income elderly or disabled. That's wealth-spreading. Ditto Medicaid, the shared federal-state program to provide health care to the poor; unemployment insurance; the State Children's Health Insurance Program, for children whose families earn too much to qualify for Medicaid; food stamps; and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, the modern welfare program. Medicare, because of a sensible change adopted under the Bush administration, requires better-off seniors to pay higher premiums; it provides extra subsidies for low-income beneficiaries to pay for prescription drugs. The bulk of federal spending on education goes to students in disadvantaged schools (Title I for kindergarten through 12th grade) and to help lower- and middle-income students pay for college (Pell Grants). Most pointedly, since it mirrors the refundable credit that Mr. Obama proposes, the earned-income tax credit—which Mr. McCain described in 1999 as a "much-needed tax credit for working Americans"—provides extra income to the working poor.

It's not at all clear that Mr. McCain actually buys into—or has seriously thought through—the implications of the conversation he has unleashed. "Taxes pay to keep our government secure, to help those who can't help themselves and other functions of government," he told CNN's Larry King the other night. But a graduated income tax, he argued, is "a far cry from taking from one group of Americans and giving to another. I mean, that's dramatically different." Really? The conservative economists Milton and Rose Friedman proposed a "negative income tax" in 1962, and President Nixon proposed a version of it in 1969.

Ironically—perversely, even—the railing against wealth-spreading comes at a time when the wealth has been spread less evenly than ever, although the economic downturn will no doubt reverse the trend temporarily. As Robert Greenstein of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities testified before the House Ways and Means Committee the other day, in 2006 the share of pre-tax income flowing to the top 1 percent of households reached its

See THE on Next Page

The stimulus plan we need now

By MARTIN FELDSTEIN
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Further legislation to deal with the economic crisis should not wait until the new president takes office. Fortunately, the president-elect will be a senator and can propose legislation without waiting to be sworn in as president. Immediately after Nov. 4, the winner could, and should, take the lead in the legislative process.

The economy faces two separate problems: the downward spiral of home prices, which hangs over the financial markets, and the decline in aggregate spending, which could cause a deep and prolonged recession.

Home prices have already fallen about 25 percent from their peak in 2006, and experts say they must fall an additional 10 to 15 percent to get back to pre-bubble levels. But they could fall much further than that as a result of mortgage defaults and foreclosures. Further declines from the current level would increase the number of homeowners whose mortgages exceed the value of their homes, creating a strong incentive to default. Defaults and the resulting foreclosures would put more homes on the market, driving down prices even more.

And this fear of a deep drop in home prices depresses the value of mortgage-backed securities, contributing to the difficulty that banks are having raising funds and to their reluctance to make loans.

Although home prices must get back to pre-bubble levels, Congress should enact policies to reduce defaults that could drive prices down much further. Direct help to the 12 million homeowners who already have negative equity in their homes could help to stop foreclosures. But it is important for Congress to go further and stop declining prices from pushing a large portion of the other 37 million homeowners with mortgages into negative equity, which could tempt them to default. The mortgage replacement loan plan that I suggested on The Post op-ed page in June, essentially a congressionally enacted mortgage "firewall" to prevent prices from dropping too far, is one possible way to do that.

Falling home prices have already reduced homeowner wealth by about $3 trillion; the stock market decline has cut wealth by an additional $8 trillion. This reduced household wealth is causing consumers to cut spending, leading to lower employment, lower incomes and, therefore, further cuts in consumer spending.

Other components of aggregate demand are also falling. The decline in consumer spending will lead to less business investment in plants and equipment. And the recession in Europe and Japan will further reduce our net exports.

With the Fed's benchmark interest rate down to 1 percent, there is no scope for an easier monetary policy to stop the downward spiral in aggregate demand.

Another round of one-time tax rebates won't do the job. The rebates that Congress enacted this spring failed to stimulate consumer spending: More than 80 percent of tax rebate dollars were saved or used to pay down existing debt.

The only way to prevent a deepening recession will be a temporary program of increased government spending. Previous attempts to use government spending to stimulate an economic recovery, particularly spending on infrastructure, have not been successful because of long legislative lags that delayed the spending until a recovery was well under way. But while past recessions lasted an average of only about 12 months, this downturn is likely to last much longer, providing the scope for successful countercyclical spending.

A fiscal package of $100 billion is not likely to be large enough to revive the economy. The fall in household wealth resulting from the collapse of the stock market and the decline of home prices may cut aggregate spending by $300 billion a year or more.

The president-elect should focus on developing a mechanism for identifying and funding spending initiatives that can occur quickly and that would otherwise not be done. While it would be good if some of the increased spending also contributed to long-term productivity, the key is to stimulate demand. Any plan to finance this spending by raising taxes, even if postponed, as Sen. Barack Obama has suggested, would hurt the recovery by causing affected taxpayers to cut their spending now.

The increased government spending should include not only money for infrastructure such as bridges and roads but also for a wide range of equipment. Rebuilding some of the military capacity that has been depleted by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan could be done relatively quickly and should be part of the overall package.

Although the economy is facing severe challenges, the president-elect can turn the situation around by introducing legislation to deal with the downward spiral in home prices and with the declining level of aggregate demand. It is important that such legislation be enacted as quickly as possible.

The writer, an economics professor at Harvard University and an adviser to the McCain campaign, is president emeritus of the National Bureau of Economic Research.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Plan B on delegate election

There are nine candidates running for the position of NMI delegate to the U.S. Congress in this year's upcoming election on Nov. 4. Under the 50-plus-1 initiative that was passed some time ago, the winning candidate must receive 50 percent plus one of the votes cast. Due to the large number of candidates running, it appears highly unlikely that any one of them will receive that majority on Nov. 4.

Perhaps I missed it, but I have not yet seen any plans from the NMI Election Commission to deal with the probability that no one will receive the required number of votes (50 plus 1). On top of that, there is very little time between the election on Nov. 4 and the date in January 2009 when the winner must take his seat in Washington, D.C.

I certainly hope that this election is not going to be a case like last time wherein some "winners" were elected by a minority of voters. If so, we could have a delegate to the U.S. Congress elected by as few as one-eighth or about 12 percent of the voters. Such a delegate would, in effect, be useless to the NMI.

With the election already upon us, I think it's about time the election commission enlightened the voters about this important issue and any plans to hold a run-off election, if needed. If I missed such an announcement, or it was not printed in the newspaper's online versions, then I ask that it be made available in the newspapers for those who read only the online versions.

Dr. Thomas D. Arkle Jr.
San Jose, Tinian

An 'only-when-we-have-to' attitude

One of my daughters asked me, "Why does our government only do things when they have to and not when they are supposed to?" You know, kids ask the best questions and I thought the answer deserved sharing and amplifying, which is why you are reading it. There are many factors that contribute to the answer but the prevailing factor has been the desire to maintain the "traditional" status quo mentality under a capitalistic economic system that requires the CNMI to grow and be competitive with global markets. Simply put, our attitude has determined our low altitude.

The desire to maintain outdated philosophies is the force driving the delaying efforts of our government to find progress. There are people and politicians still trying to promote the philosophy of indigenous superiority, which is nothing more than another wall of social imperialism negatively affecting the social fiber of the CNMI and our relationship with the feds. There are people and politicians who find it easier to assert blame on "outsiders" and the feds instead of looking in the mirror and finding some solutions. There are people and politicians who place culture before anything and use it as an excuse in government, which is contrary to our democratic system that is supposed to represent people regardless of their race, color or religion. There are people and especially politicians who are still putting personal politics, family and friends before what is good for the entire CNMI—a severe shortage of civic virtue. There are those who seem to think the Chamorro philosophy of "little by little" is the way to handle the growth of our economy, when the global markets require that we act expeditiously—that's why we are so far behind today. I could go on with more attitude challenges but I'm sure the message is clear: We need to change our attitude to gain some economic and political altitude.

I was glad to see Article 12 has finally started to get the attention it deserves because I personally believe it is one of the biggest inhibitors to economic prosperity for the CNMI. We are literally delaying progress by just waiting for 2011 to vote on Article 12—a not-until-we-have-to attitude. Does Article 12 have to be another issue that we will only address when we have to? I'm sure every economist in the world that understands our present economic situation will agree that if we are going to deal with Article 12 in 2011, it would be far better to resolve it *now* and not later. So will we address the major issue hindering our success now or wait until we have to?

It should be clear to everyone that we need an era of reforms in the CNMI if we are to truly find prosperity, and that requires a new attitude and new approach. The global economy and national politics are two serious games that we had better learn and commit to playing or we will continue to be on the outside looking in and hoping for a chance or handout. We can't make up our own rules that defy the American principles and economic components for success and expect the feds, investors and the world to play by our rules—it ain't happening. I can only hope that our Legislature has learned from the lessons that brought federalization to our doorsteps and that they will have the vision and wisdom to put a resolution on Article 12 on the ballot in the 2009 election so we don't have to wait until 2011—or should I say until the feds are forced to make us? It will take only one person to file a federal lawsuit to get the feds to change Article 12 after 2011 if the people don't correct this conflict with the U. S. Constitution. I'm sure people know how significant it would be to our economy and to our working relationship with the federal government if we fixed Article 12 ahead of schedule.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Never too late!

Sometimes we go through our busy day not realizing that an event transpired. At times these events strike so close to home and yet we forget to say the simple phrase, "thank you and *si yu'us ma'ase*." I am a family member of the late Joaquin Mesngon Ogo Sr., also known as "Tan Kindo," who was given tribute by our present leadership in the legislative and executive branches respectively through the enactment of Public Law 16-16 on Sept. 9, 2008. This act named the Sinapalo baseball field after our beloved grandfather.

This really means a lot to us, the family, being that we can vividly remember the tremendous time and sacrifice he made for our community of Rota. Through his efforts we were given the opportunity to enjoy a family oriented sport that ultimately sparked camaraderie throughout the various families. I fondly remember "Ta" making his gestures as an umpire and having the crowd break out in laughter as a result of his jolly spirit. He made the events entertaining and enjoyable. We had such a great time that it would bring about the spirit of sportsmanship, where winning was not the focal point of the game. His untiring service as a volunteer gave us the opportunity to gather as a community.

Our small community needs more people like him. No matter what sport or activity, it seems that volunteerism is the root of success. As a community, only through the backs of unselfish individuals can we continue to prosper. For this, we the family extend our deepest appreciation to the various individuals that forever memorialized his accomplishments.

Ross & Julie Manglona
On behalf of the family of the late Joaquin "Tan Kindo" Mesngon Ogo, Sr.

Grace under fire

For those of you who are undecided about whom to vote for as delegate to the U.S. Congress—and even for those of you who think you are decided—please let me tell you about a man who I strongly believe deserves your vote and why.

That man is Juan Tudela Lizama. I first met Juan Lizama 15 years ago, and I had the privilege of working with him on many trials, appeals and other legal matters. Is he a smart lawyer and strong advocate? Yes, absolutely, and those are important skills to have in Congress. Congress makes the laws so it is no accident that voters often send accomplished lawyers like Juan Lizama to Congress. But there are two other aspects of Juan Lizama's personality that I want to share with you because I believe that both will help him to be a very successful delegate for the CNMI in the complex, high pressure environment of the U.S. Congress.

First, Juan Lizama has strong vision and the will and energy to accomplish what he sets out to do. He is an excellent planner, the best I have ever known. His life is a testament to what one person can accomplish with a plan and the will to complete it. He already has a thoughtful, detailed plan for what he will accomplish for the CNMI in Congress. He knows how to do it, and he's ready.

Second, Juan Lizama has incredible grace under fire. I think all of you who know the judge will agree that he is a gentleman—intelligent, diplomatic, and reverent. I have watched him at ease in the middle of several angry, barking lawyers, and then make his points thoughtfully, in way that captures the audience. The only other candidate this election season I've seen who conducts himself in a similar, thoughtful way is Sen. Barrack Obama.

In fact, I have an image of newly-elected Congressman Lizama meeting newly-elected President Obama. They shake hands and start to talk. Clearly these two men are going to hit it off. Both are self-made men who were raised on Pacific Islands, both are smart lawyers and family men, both have a plan and a passion to do what is right and make a difference, and both have true grace under fire. I would not at all be surprised if Juan Lizama convinces the President to visit the CNMI. Seriously, he probably already has that in his plan!

For these reasons and more, Juan Lizama has my respect. Please vote for him on Tuesday.

Frank L. Nelson
via e-mail

Send the best to Congress

My fellow Filipino Americans, now that you are ready to go to the polls to vote for a delegate to the U.S. Congress, I hope that you will have in mind the welfare of your fellow Filipinos who have been so unfortunate to remain as nonresident aliens in the CNMI, perhaps for the rest of their lives.

When I became an interim U.S. citizen, I did not abandon those who were left behind with their old status. I assisted those who were late in obtaining their CNMI permanent residency, and I succeeded for some and failed for others. For some of you who were renouncees, you will recall how I prepared some of you for the coming of the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, so that you would be recognized as U.S. citizens. And when the U.S. Passport Office refused to issue you U.S. passports, I filed the Barasi case and our victory in that case laid the groundwork for more of you to be issued U.S. passports, even for those who applied late. When some of you stateless children were refused recognition of your birthright as U.S. citizens, I filed a case in the federal court (with the financial support of South Korean Americans) to uphold your rights, and the 9th Circuit of Appeals ruled that you were stateless no more.

With the heart that beats for our unfortunate Filipino nonresident aliens, I believe that I am making a good choice of voting for Juan T. Lizama. He has a heart that beats like mine. He is a lawyer like me. He knows the U.S. Constitution and the Covenant like I do or even more, because he has been a judge. He can argue on matters of constitutionality when legislations affecting the CNMI are brought to legislative hearings in Congress and knows what he is talking about.

My choice is not meant to take away the recognition that candidate Pedro Tenorio is the most experienced in matters of dealings with congressmen and senators in Washington, D.C., nor is it meant to ignore that in the veins of candidate John Gonzales runs the blood of Filipinos and he therefore may have the kind of heart that I have. I wish we were sending three delegates to Washington. But since we are only sending one, the best we can send I Juan T. Lizama.

Reynaldo Yana
via e-mail

THE

From Page 10

highest level since 1928. The share of after-tax income going to the top 20 percent and the top 1 percent in 2005 was the highest on record since the Congressional Budget Office began analyzing the data in 1979. Some of this is due to the structure of the Bush tax cuts, which—as Mr. McCain pointed out at the time they were enacted—disproportionately favored the wealthiest Americans. Mr. Obama's proposal to roll back the top bracket tax cuts and to bolster the bottom with refundable credits is an effort to address this inequity.

"I don't know when we decided to make a virtue out of selfishness," Mr. Obama said in Missouri on Friday. Not quite "ask not what your country can do for you" lyricism. But a start, perhaps, in explaining to the country the essential common sense of supposed gaffes: It IS patriotic, as Democratic vice presidential candidate Joseph R. Biden Jr. said, for the rich to pay more for a country that has helped them gain more; it IS "good for everybody," as Mr. Obama told Joe Wurzelbacher, when you spread the wealth around. These represent, in fact, a rather mainstream view—and not a bad governing philosophy for the country in its current straits.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

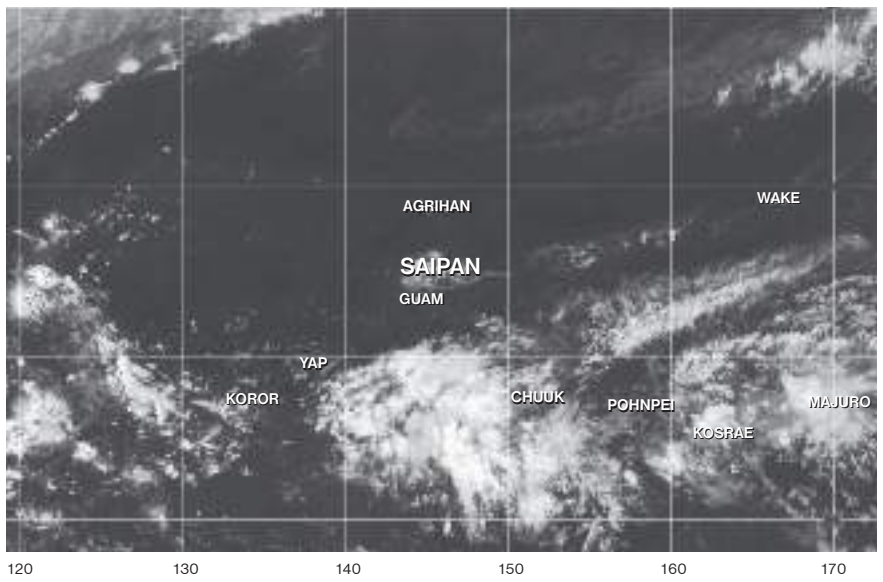
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲84	▼75
Palau	Showers	▲85	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲84	▼77
Chuuk	Thundershowers	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲83	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲84	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲65	▼61
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼42
Hong Kong	Rain	▲82	▼75
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲82	▼72
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲57	▼45
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲70	▼52
Manila	Cloudy	▲86	▼75
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼52
Miami	Cloudy	▲83	▼66
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲63	▼52
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲66	▼48
Paris	Cloudy	▲55	▼46
Pusan	Sunny	▲66	▼50
Rome	Rain	▲76	▼55
Salem	Showers	▲51	▼39
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲61	▼48
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲55	▼43
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲66	▼55
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲64	▼50

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:45PM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shearline enters the discussion area at 25N163E and runs west-southwestward to just north of the CNMI at 23N145E widely scattered. Mostly light showers are present within 80 miles of the shearline. A weak disturbance is centered west of Rota near 15N145E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are associated with the disturbance and extend from near Rota, Tinian and Saipan or within 50 miles of a line from 16N145E to 14N144E. Trade wind convergence dominates most of Micronesia south of 10N. This convergence is creating three primary areas of enhanced shower activity. The first area extends from 8N130E to 7N135E to 4N134E to 4N130E and back to 8N130E. This area includes Palau. The second area stretches from southern Yap state to eastern Chuuk state or 200 miles either side of a line from 6N139E to 5N153E. This area includes isolated thunderstorms. The third area covers most of the Marshall Islands and Kosrae and extends 100 miles either side of a line from 5N160E to 7N168E to 5N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
5:22AM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
1:10PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
6:32PM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
10:10PM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:14AM	5:47 PM
Wednesday	6:15AM	5:47 PM
Thursday	6:15AM	5:46 PM
Friday	6:15AM	5:46 PM
Saturday	6:16AM	5:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:13AM	10:40PM
Wednesday	11:57AM	11:32PM
Thursday	12:37PM	
Friday	1:16PM	12:22AM
Saturday	1:53PM	1:13AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:25am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:25am	11:05am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:30am	6:20am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Saipan-Shanghai

OZ 608	1:30am	4:30am	2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7

Guam-Manila

CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:25am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:15am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:40am+1	3,4,6,7

Shanghai-Saipan

OZ 607	5:30pm	12:30am+1	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6

Manila-Guam

CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $182. Off-island subscription rate is $376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Marine monument

Much has been said about the proposed marine monument at the three northernmost islands of the Mariana Islands chain. Individuals who support the proposal has made public claims that;

The monument is economically advantageous for the CNMI;

The monument will help preserve the fish and other marine animals for our future generations;

The monument will bring in fresh three ($3,000,000+) plus dollars to the CNMI;

The monument will help in the restoration of the world's environments;

The monument will employ many CNMI Residents: and

The CNMI Constitution has identified Asuncion, Maug, and Uracus, as Marine Protected Areas.

I would like to separately comment on each of the above points.

"The monument is economically advantageous for the CNMI." Yes, perhaps the notion behind the statement sounds good to form. But, I strongly think that it is not so. First, I have read the "economic benefits" study done by a certain University of Guam professor several times and unfortunately, the professor did not present any economic indicator to substantiate his economic presentation. His economic presentation is all based on "maybe or probably" and therefore, my friends, it is a plan without substance. Please, do not be fooled by his economic plan because it will definitely not provide economic advantage to the CNMI and its people. The Mr. Professor should have presented his economic plan with indicators and other economic factors, perhaps, in numbers that will show or justify the intended economic benefits forthcoming from the monument.

I was the Public School System officer to the Northern Islands from 1984-1990. It took a ship seven days to get there. How many tourists can afford to pay thousands of dollars to see the ocean at the marine monument? There is nothing to see except virgin lands that you cannot get into, unless the tourists are willing to ride the waves and jump and cling onto the cliffline to get on land.

If the Mr. Professor is alluding to tourism as the economic factor to benefit the CNMI, again he is wrong. Here is my reason. Tourism is driven by the number of airlines coming to the CNMI. Airline is driven by the cost of fuel. The proposed marine monument will not be a factor to reduce oil prices and, as such we will not see an increase in the number of airlines coming to the CNMI. Therefore, definitely, the number of tourists coming to the CNMI will not increase and we will be left with nothing. The Friends of the Monument are being fooled by Mr. Professor's "economic benefits" study. Fortunately, we are not!

The Friends of the Monument have gone as far as comparing the Papahanaumokaukea Marine Monument in Hawaii to the proposed marine monument in the CNMI. This comparison is a fallacy. How can you compare Hawaii who gets over four million tourists every year to the CNMI with less than 400,000 tourists every year? This comparison is outrageous! I am not a businessman, but my goodness, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure this out. It will not work!

"The monument will help preserve the fish and other marine animals for the future generations." Perhaps it makes every sense to be thinking of conservation and preservation of our resources. The question is, isn't the present MPAs in the CNMI not enough conservation area? The CNMI, by law, have Managaha Island, Forbidden Island, Bird Island, Asuncion Island, Maug Island, Uracus Island, and Pisto Island as Marine Protected Areas. What else do you want from us? Take everything that we have. Enough is enough!

If the fish spillover from all these designated Marine Protected Areas within the CNMI is not enough to give the future generations opportunity to see the fish, then I don't know what will!

"The Marine Monument will bring $3 million-plus fresh money to the CNMI." Are we going to compromise the future well-being of the people of the CNMI for $3 million dollars? I think not! No amount of dollars can replace our subsistence living. The questions to ask are 1.) Is the CNMI going to get $3 million-plus every year? Is the $3 million-plus going to be use to buy ships for tourists? Or is the $3 million-plus for jobs for those registered Friends of the Monument and their families?

Yes, the CNMI Constitution has designated the three islands of Uracus, Maug and Asuncion as Marine Protected Areas. Here is the difference between constitutional MPA designation and the Marianas Marine Monument designation: The CNMI Constitution MPA designation is by the will of the people. The people can always amend the constitutional designation in the future to address their needs. The designation under the proposed Marianas Marine Monument will be for the rest of the lives of the people of the CNMI. The economic opportunity of the CNMI's future generations will be forever lost. "Give me a fish and I'll eat for the day. Teach me to fish and I will eat for the rest of my life."

"The monument will help in restoring the world's environment." Again, I certainly agree that we must take part in the restoration of the world's natural environment. Pew is funded by a company that is responsible for the world's environmental dilapidation, they should pay the price but not at the expense of the people of the CNMI. I might sound selfish, but it is the truth that the people of the CNMI is never a beneficiary of the billions of dollars Pew made in destroying the world's natural environment. Why should we pay for it now?

The people of the CNMI have only two things that are handed down by their ancestors. Those are the land and water. The history of the CNMI will show that its people have lived on the land by farming and the water by fishing. Many would ague that it is not the case anymore. Wrong! We farm our land and we fish our ocean for our daily subsistence. More so now than ever, especially with the bad condition of our economy that perhaps will continue until we see better times.

At present, we the islanders of the CNMI have only one thing left of what have been handed down by our ancestors and that is the land. The federal government, through the Covenant, has taken away our water by mandate of the Covenant. This was affirmed by the federal Circuit of Appeals decision on the submerged lands case. The CNMI lost its argument on the submerge land issue. That should give the people of the CNMI more reasons to protect the taking of our islands of Asuncion, Maug, and Uracus.

"The monument will employ many CNMI residents." I don't think so. The Papahanaumokaukea Marine Monument in Hawaii employs only seven people out of the 1,211,537 population. This is not even 1 percent of the population. How can you convince the people of the CNMI that the Mariana Marine Monument will employ more people than Hawaii? If the monument will employ at least 100 CNMI residents, then I can say that it benefits the employment portion of their argument.

"The three most northern islands, Asuncion, Maug, and Uracus, are protected areas by CNMI Constitution." Yes, that is the case with the three islands. As I have stated earlier, the people of the CNMI have included these islands in our Constitution as conservation areas for future needs. We should keep these islands protected for the future of our children. We should give them the opportunity to make a decision in the future whereby they can amend the Constitution to fit their future economic advancement. Once again, I strongly feel that the islands in the CNMI belong to the Carolinians and Chamorros. We should be speaking as to how best we will dispose of our islands. Those who are not of NMI-descent and do not meet the 1/4 blood requirement must refrain from talking as to how they best think they can dispose of our indigenous islands. What is it that you do not understand about what Article 12 has mandated?

On another note, the Friends of the Monument have put out a list of individuals who support the Mariana Marine Monument. Here are some of the things that I find problematic about their list.

The names of some individuals are printed five or six times;

Names of individuals who are not of sound mine are listed; and

Names of students who are in the Special Education program are also listed.

Is this how desperate the proponent of the monument? They would enlist individuals who don't fully understand what they are signing? Did they concoct this list, thinking that people would not review their list? How shameful. I would recommend that parents of those special kids whose names are listed without their authorization to take immediate action against this group.

Lastly, if you are not an islander, then you will never understand how islanders live. You can pretend to know, but you will never know unless you are an islander!

Juan I. Tenorio
As Matuis, Saipan

Prayer for Election Day

Editor's Note: These are excerpts taken from Pray The Vote: Pray the Scriptures for Election Day (http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-religion/1963941/posts) and The Election Day Novena (http://www.priestsforlife.org/novenas/election-day-novena.aspx). They were compiled and submitted as a contribution by a reader.

Heavenly Father, You promise to bless us with rejoicing when righteous leaders are in charge. So we ask You for godly, good leaders who will bring joy to those they lead. Do not allow any wicked persons to gain public office in this fall's elections, but only those who will honor You.

—Proverbs 29:2 "When the just prevail, the people rejoice; but when the wicked rule, the people groan."

My Lord, You value so deeply the qualities of good judgment and discernment, but it is easy for us to lose sight of them. Guide all those who will vote in this year's elections a sense of discernment and sound judgment, and let that discernment in turn bring discerning leaders into office.

—Proverbs 3:21 "My son, let not these slip out of your sight: keep advice and counsel in view."

O God, You are actively involved in every part of Your creation at every moment. Grant to all Americans a willingness to get involved in the upcoming elections, resisting complacency and passivity. Let each one know the value of his or her vote, and let each one exercise their privilege with diligence and faith.

—Amos 6:1 "Woe to the complacent in Zion, to the overconfident on the mount of Samaria, Leaders of a nation favored from the first, to whom the people of Israel have recourse!"

Heavenly Father, You promise to bless us with rejoicing when righteous leaders are in charge. So we ask You for godly, good leaders who will bring joy to those they lead. Do not allow any wicked persons to gain public office in this fall's elections, but only those who will honor You.

—Proverbs 29:2 "When the just prevail, the people rejoice; but when the wicked rule, the people groan."

O God, Your plans are firm, faithful and forever. The purposes of Your heart prevail through all the generations. Let Your mighty, perfect will be done in the elections this November.

—Psalm 33:11 "But the plan of the Lord stands forever, wise designs through all generations."

O Lord, bring righteous people who fear You to lead our nation into the future. Establish godly leaders who glorify You as they lead, and let their tenure be as welcome as the light of morning at sunrise and like the brightness after rain that brings green grass to the earth.

—II Samuel 23:3-4 v.3 The God of Israel spoke; of me the Rock of Israel said, "He that rules over men in justice, that rules in the fear of God, v.4 is like the morning light at sunrise on a cloudless morning, making the greensward sparkle after rain."

With my vote today, I am prepared and intending to seek peace for this country, as it is written *(Jer. 29:7) "Promote the welfare of the city to which I have exiled you; Pray for it to the Lord, for upon its welfare depends your own."*

May it be Your will that votes will be counted faithfully, and may You account my vote as if I had fulfilled this verse with all my power.

May it be good in Your eyes to give a wise heart to whomever we elect today and may You raise for us a government whose rule is for goodness and blessings, to bring justice and peace to all the inhabitants of the world for rulership is Yours.

May You give to all the peoples of this country the strength and the will to pursue righteousness and to seek peace as a unified force in order to cause to flourish, throughout the world, good life and peace, and may You fulfill for us the verse *(Ps. 90:17): "May the favor of the Lord our God be ours. Prosper the work of our hands! Prosper the work of our hands!"*

A Prayer for our Nation as we Prepare to Elect our Leaders

O God, we acknowledge You today as Lord,

Not only of individuals, but of nations and governments.

We thank You for Your law,
Which our Founding Fathers acknowledged
And recognized as higher than any human law.

We thank You for the opportunity that this election year puts before us,
To exercise our solemn duty not only to vote,
But to influence countless others to vote,
And to vote correctly.

Lord, we pray that Your people may be awakened.
Let them realize that while politics is not their salvation,
Their response to You requires that they be politically active.

Awaken Your people to know that they are not called to be a sect
Fleeing the world, But rather a community of faith renewing
the world.

Awaken them that the same hands lifted up to You in Prayer
Are the hands that pull the lever in the voting booth;
That the same eyes that read Your Word
Are the eyes that read the names of the ballot,
And that they do not cease to be Christians
When they enter the voting booth.

Awaken Your people to a commitment to justice,
To the sanctity of marriage and the family,
To the dignity of each individual human life,
And to the truth that human rights begin when Human
Lives Begin, And not one moment later.

Lord, we rejoice today
That we are citizens of Your kingdom.
May the make us all the more committed
To being faithful citizens on earth.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Business

CEOs, famous investors hit hard by market plunge

NEW YORK (AP)—Here's something that might provide a bit of solace amid the plunging values in your retirement accounts: Warren Buffett is losing lots of money, too. So are Kirk Kerkorian, Carl Icahn and Sumner Redstone.

They are still plenty rich, but their losses—some on paper and others actually realized—illustrate how few have been spared in today's punishing market when even big-name investors, corporate executives and hedge-fund titans are all watching their wealth evaporate.

AP

In this Oct. 22, 2008 file photo, Warren Buffett, Chairman & CEO, Berkshire Hathaway, Inc., is seen at The Women's Conference in Long Beach, Calif.

The portfolio damage for some of these high-flyers has soared to billions of dollars in recent months. And they can't just blame the market's downdraft—some did themselves in with badly timed stock purchases or margin calls on shares bought with loans.

"It's always hard to beat the market no matter who you are," said Robert Hansen, senior associate dean at Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business. "But when the ocean waters get that rough, it is hard for any boat to avoid getting swamped."

It has been a painful year for anyone exposed to the stock market. The Standard & Poor's 500 stock index, considered a barometer for the broad market, has lost about 36 percent since January, with every single sector - including once thriving energy and utilities—seeing declines of about 20 percent or more.

Such losses in the last year have wiped out an estimated $2 trillion in equity value from 401(k) and individual retirement accounts, nearly half the holdings in those plans, according to new findings by the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College. Similar losses are seen in the portfolios of private and public pension plans, which have lost $1.9 trillion, the researchers found.

As stocks have plunged, so have the value of chief executives' equity stakes in their own companies. The average year-to-date decline is 49 percent for the corporate stock holdings of CEOs at 175 large U.S. companies, according to new research by compensation consulting firm Steven Hall & Partners.

Topping that list is Buffett, who has seen the value of equity in his company, Berkshire Hathaway, fall by about $13.6 billion, or 22 percent, so far this year, to leave his holdings valued at $48.1 billion.

Stocks likely to recover no matter who's president

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street prefers Republicans, McCain supporters argue. But stocks have done better under Democratic presidents, Obama supporters fire back.

When it comes to the stock market—especially this turbulent market—does it really matter who is elected president?

Yes and no. Politicians do influence the economy—and they'll play a big role in how the country emerges from this current crisis. But analysts say neither presidential candidate can be a cure for what's ailing Wall Street.

"The economy is a big, big machine, and the president is one government bureaucrat," said Ron Florance, Wells Fargo Private Bank Director of Asset Allocation.

Moreover, most analysts believe the battered stock market has nowhere to go but up next year, no matter who ends up in the White House—and history will probably give the victor credit even if he actually had little to do with the rally.

"The timing couldn't be better," Florance said.

Still, the stock market is just one part of the economy, and under either Barack Obama or John McCain, the United States needs to recover from a downturn whose severity has not yet been determined. And either candidate will face a budget deficit of around $500 billion when he's sworn into office—a shortfall expected to climb to $1 trillion next year.

Because of the deficit, the financial climate might end up affecting the new president's policies more than his policies will affect the financial climate.

"This whole financial crisis will largely serve as an agenda buster for at least the first year," said John Lynch, chief market analyst at Evergreen Investments.

That's not to say, of course, there aren't differences in the impact McCain or Obama would have on U.S. businesses, and in turn, their stocks. Robert Froehlich, an investment strategist at Deutsche Bank, said it's likely that under Obama, the alternative energy sector would do well, and possibly the paper and steel industries if he enforces trade treaties. And under McCain, Froehlich said, it's likely that big energy companies would do better because he does not support a windfall profits tax, and that financial companies could benefit because of his stance on dividend taxes, long-term capital gains taxes, and estate taxes.

AP

Traders work on the floor of New York Stock Exchange Thursday, Oct. 30, 2008.

Asia stock markets gain; Hang Seng up 5.3 pct

HONG KONG (AP)—Asian stock markets rose robustly Monday, with Hong Kong's benchmark advancing more than 5 percent, as investors appeared encouraged by government efforts to help the global economy weather the financial crisis.

Across the region, markets seemed to shrug of more dispiriting economic data and focus on fresh stimulus plans.

The Korea Composite Stock Price added 2.5 percent after the government unveiled nearly $11 billion in new measures to protect South Korea from sliding into recession.

In Australia, the S&P/ASX 200 was up 3.5 percent despite troubling evidence of slowing manufacturing and retails sales, as traders anticipated further interest rate cuts from the country's central bank on Tuesday.

Shanghai's benchmark also gained even though a new report suggested Chinese manufacturing, the engine behind the country's phenomenal growth, may be contracting.

Hong Kong's blue-chip Hang Seng Index led the region's benchmarks, climbing 691.31, or nearly 5 percent, to 14,659.98. Singapore's key index also rose about 5 percent.

"I don't think it's a massive change in direction, more a case of a little more confidence going forward in massively oversold stocks and ... global organized attempts to deal with the issues," said Miles Remington, head of Asian sales trading at BNP Paribas Securities in Hong Kong.

Japanese financial markets were closed Monday for a public holiday and due to reopen Tuesday.

The rise in Asian markets also lifted oil prices, which advanced 99 cents to $68.80 a barrel in Asian trade on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Boeing factories set to resume work after strike

SEATTLE (AP)—Factories at Boeing Co. are due to start humming again Sunday after Machinists union members voted to end a costly eight-week strike that clipped profits and stalled deliveries by the world's No. 2 commercial airplane maker. Workers are expected to return Sunday night to Boeing's commercial airplane factories, which have been closed since the Sept. 6 walkout. The strike cost an estimated $100 million a day in deferred revenue and production delays on the company's highly anticipated next-generation passenger jet. Machinists union members ended their walkout on Saturday by ratifying a new contract with Boeing. Members of the union, which represents about 27,000 workers at plants in Washington state, Oregon and Kansas, voted about 74 percent in favor of the proposal five days after the two sides tentatively agreed to the deal and union leaders recommended its approval. "This contract gives the workers at Boeing an opportunity to share in the extraordinary success this company has achieved over the past several years," Mark Blondin, the union's aerospace coordinator and chief negotiator, said in a union news release.

Murdoch: China, India will reshape the world

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)—Media tycoon Rupert Murdoch says the ongoing metamorphosis of China and India from historic backwaters into economic powers will help reshape the world in the next few decades. The News Corp. chief gave an upbeat assessment of the future and made a vigorous case for free markets despite troubled economic times and what he called "naked, heartless aggression" in the world. In the first of a series of speeches in his birth country of Australia, Murdoch spoke Sunday of "the great transformation we've seen in the past few decades, the unleashing of human talent and ability across our world, and the golden age for humankind that I see just around the corner." He said China and India are great countries whose people are only recently emerging from long histories of being "incarcerated by communism or caste." The rise of their economies is creating a new middle class that would be three billion strong within 30 years and that is setting a new benchmark for global competitiveness.

Brown believes Gulf states will help with bailout

DOHA, Qatar (AP)—British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said Sunday he believed that oil-rich Gulf states would be willing to help bail out countries stricken by the global credit crisis. The British leader has said that he wants "hundreds of billions" of extra dollars pledged to the International Monetary Fund, noting that the Middle East has significant foreign exchange reserves fueled by previous surges in the oil price. "The Saudis will, I think, contribute like other countries so we can have a bigger fund worldwide," he said after a three-hour meeting with Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah late Saturday in Riyadh. The IMF already has dipped into its $250 billion reserves to provide emergency loans to Iceland, Hungary and Ukraine totaling $30 billion. Pakistan has said it may call on the international body for another $5 billion. The Saudis did not comment publicly on their talks with Brown, but Qatari Prime Minister Sheik Hamad bin Jassem Al Thani said his country was keen to work together with other nations, noting that Qatar also has been affected by the financial turmoil that has gripped the world in recent months.

Nation

Campaigning reaches fever pitch 2 days before vote

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Barack Obama and John McCain uncorked massive get-out-the-vote operations in more than a dozen battleground states Sunday, millions of telephone calls, mailings and door-knockings in a frenzied, fitting climax to a record-shattering $1 billion campaign. Together, they'll spend about $8 per presidential vote.

With just two days to go, most national polls show Obama ahead of McCain. State surveys suggest the Democrat's path to the requisite 270 electoral votes—and perhaps far beyond—is much easier to navigate than McCain's.

Obama exuded confidence. "The last couple of days, I've been just feeling good," he told 80,000 gathered to hear him—and singer Bruce Springsteen—in Cleveland. "The crowds seem to grow and everybody's got a smile on their face. You start thinking that maybe we might be able to win an election on November 4th."

In Peterborough, N.H., McCain held his final town hall-style event in the state that put him on the national map in 2000 and launched his GOP primary comeback eight years later. "I come to the people of New Hampshire to ask them to let me go on one more mission," said McCain, who is looking for an upset victory against Obama.

Chad Vahue, center, wears an Uncle Sam outfit as he cheers for Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., at a rally in Cincinnati, Ohio, Sunday, Nov. 2, 2008.

AP

Polls show the six closest states are Florida, Indiana, Missouri, North Carolina, Nevada and Ohio. All were won by Bush and made competitive by Obama's record-shattering fundraising. The campaigns also are running aggressive ground games elsewhere, including Iowa, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Colorado and Virginia.

All that's left now for the candidates is make sure people vote Tuesday—if they haven't already.

Indeed, Election Day is becoming a misnomer. About 27 million absentee and early votes were cast in 30 states as of Saturday night, more than ever. Democrats outnumbered Republicans in pre-Election Day voting in key states.

That has Democrats—and even some Republicans—privately questioning whether McCain can overtake Obama, even if GOP loyalists turn out in droves on Tuesday. Obama may already have too big of a head start in critical states like Nevada and Iowa, which Bush won four years ago.

John Ripley, Vietnam War hero, dies at age 69

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP)—Retired Marine Col. John Ripley, who was credited with stopping a column of North Vietnamese tanks by blowing up a pair of bridges during the 1972 Easter Offensive of the Vietnam War, died at home at age 69, friends and relatives said Sunday.

Ripley's son, Stephen Ripley, said his father was found at his Annapolis home Saturday after missing a speaking engagement on Friday. The son said the cause of death had not been determined but it appeared his father died in his sleep.

In a videotaped interview with the U.S. Naval Institute for its Americans at War program, Ripley said he and about 600 South Vietnamese were ordered to "hold and die" against 20,000 North Vietnamese soldiers with about 200 tanks.

"I'll never forget that order, 'hold and die'," Ripley said. The only way to stop the enormous force with their tiny force was to destroy the bridge, he said.

AP

Guest speaker retired Marine Col. John Ripley participates in a Naval Academy ceremony on June 6, 2007 in Annapolis, Md. to honor sailors who have returned from Iraq and Afganistan.

"The idea that I would be able to even finish the job before the enemy got me was ludicrous," Ripley said. "When you know you're not going to make it, a wonderful thing happens: You stop being cluttered by the feeling that you're going to save your butt."

Ripley crawled under the bridge under heavy gunfire, rigging 500 pounds of explosives that brought the twins spans down, said John Miller, a former Marine adviser in Vietnam and the author of "The Bridge at Dong Ha," which details the battle.

Miller said the North Vietnamese advance was slowed considerably by Ripley.

"A lot of people think South Vietnam would have gone under in '72 had he not stopped them," Miller said.

Ray Madonna, president of the U.S. Naval Academy's 1962 graduating class, served in Vietnam as a Marine at the same time and said his classmate saved countless U.S. and South Vietnamese troops.

"They would have been wrecked" if the tanks had crossed, Madonna said. He said Ripley also coordinated naval gunfire that stopped the tanks from crossing at a shallower point downstream.

Nevada gov. cleared in FBI probe

WASHINGTON (AP)—Nevada Gov. Jim Gibbons, whose first term has been marred by an FBI corruption investigation, has been cleared of wrongdoing and will not be charged in the probe, his attorney said Sunday night.

Gibbons, a former Republican congressman, has been under investigation into whether he improperly received gifts from a software company that received military contracts while he was in Congress. Gibbons steadfastly denied any wrongdoing and said the Justice Department could look as hard as it wanted and wouldn't find anything inappropriate.

Defense attorney Abbe Lowell said the Justice Department told him that Gibbons would not be charged. Such assurances are commonplace when prosecutors have completed a case.

"The prosecutors in the case confirmed what the governor has been saying for the past two years—that he did nothing wrong and there was no basis for any allegations against him," defense attorney Abbe Lowell said in a prepared statement.

The Justice Department had no comment on Lowell's assertion Sunday. But a law enforcement official close to the case, speaking on condition of anonymity because authorities have not even officially acknowledged the investigation, confirmed the substance of Lowell's statement.

Calif. surgeon faces trial in organ donation case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ruben Navarro loved horror movies. He watched the "Nightmare on Elm Street" and "Friday the 13th" series with his mother, Rosa, and liked to visit Knott's Berry Farm when it was transformed every October to "Knott's Scary Farm."

Since his death 2 1/2 years ago, Rosa Navarro says she has been living a real-life nightmare without her only child. Ruben Navarro, who had multiple medical problems, died in a San Luis Obispo hospital after a heart attack, then was taken off a ventilator and prepared for organ donation.

The circumstances surrounding that death will be center stage in opening statements scheduled to begin Monday in the trial of Dr. Hootan Roozrokh, a San Francisco transplant surgeon who is accused of hastening Navarro's death so his organs could be harvested.

"He was my world," Rosa Navarro told The Associated Press on Thursday. "It's been very, very hard for me. He didn't die with respect and integrity."

ACROSS THE NATION

Gay-marriage backers make the political personal

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—As California voters prepare to decide Tuesday whether to eliminate the marriage rights same-sex couples won five months ago, gays and their allies have been encouraged to tell co-workers and neighbors why legalizing the unions matters to them. Same-sex couples who have married since June knocked on doors in neighborhoods across the state on Sunday to share stories with the voters they hoped to persuade to defeat Proposition 8. In recent weeks, other gay opponents of the ban, including a Roman Catholic priest, a former Republican mayor and a small-town newspaper editor, came out of the closet to show how the issue cuts across religious and social lines. Proposition 8 has turned into this year's most expensive election question aside from the presidential race. Religious and civil rights groups have poured money and effort into the drive, making it one of the nation's most closely watched races.

5 found fatally shot in SoCal homeless encampment

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Five people were found shot to death Sunday in a homeless encampment obscured by heavy brush in the shadow of a Long Beach freeway, police said. Officers received an anonymous call Sunday morning and went to an area between several commercial buildings and freeway ramps off Interstate 405. They found two women and three men, all gunshot victims, Long Beach Deputy Police Chief Robert Luna said. Detectives have not determined a motive or identified a suspect. Coroner's investigators were sent to the scene to identify the victims and determine how long they had been dead, Luna said. Some of the victims had been shot more than once, said Ed Winter, assistant chief in the Los Angeles County coroner's office. Dozens of detectives combed the area for evidence.

Utah polygamous communities produce voter's guide

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—One of Utah's original voting blocs—polygamists—is attempting to re-establish its political influence after more than a century of largely trying to go unnoticed. Communities in Harmony, an alliance of representatives from various Utah polygamous groups, has issued a voter's guide to assist Utah's polygamists with Election Day decision-making. "We need the candidates to know that they are just as accountable to us as they are to other constituents," Carlene Cannon, the group's spokeswoman and a member of the Davis County Cooperative Society, which practices polygamy. Polygamy is a legacy of the early Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The faith brought the practice to Utah in the 1840s but abandoned it in 1890 as a condition of statehood. Self-described fundamentalist Mormons continue to believe the principle brings glorification in heaven and maintain the practice mostly in secret.

Supreme Court hears case over American Indian land

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—The Narragansett Indian Tribe bought a 31-acre lot in 1991, saying it would be used for "economic development" and housing for the elderly and poor. However, the state of Rhode Island, fearing the tribe really wants to create a tax-free zone or build a casino, sued to block the Narragansetts from putting the land into federal trust, which would essentially free it from state and local law. On Monday, their fight reaches the U.S. Supreme Court in a case being closely watched across the country because it could determine how tribes recognized after the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act are allowed to buy, govern and use land. States' rights factor heavily into the case. The Bush administration sides with the tribe, arguing that the 1934 act allows it to take land into trust to benefit American Indians regardless of when their tribes were recognized.

Asia

China envoy in Taiwan for economic talks

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—The highest-ranking Chinese official to visit Taiwan since the two sides split in 1949 called for dialogue with the island, saying it will be the only way to help enhance peace in the Taiwan Strait.

Chen Yunlin waved at Taiwanese officials who greeted him and received a bouquet at the tarmac of Taipei's international airport after arriving on an Air China chartered plane with a large delegation of businesspeople.

A black limousine escorted by police cars then took him to the landmark Grand Hotel, where he is to stay during his five-day visit.

In a brief speech at the hotel lobby, Chen urged both sides to treasure their recent warming of ties.

"This visit has not come easily," he said. "Only through talks can we build trust and only through cooperation can we create a win-win economic situation."

Chen, who heads the mainland's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait, is to hold talks with his Taiwanese counterpart Chiang Pin-kung on cementing closer economic ties, especially transport links.

Chen's visit is seen as a direct result of Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou's efforts since he took office in May to improve ties and end decades of political rivalry.

Chiang called Chen's visit "a historic moment in cross-Strait exchanges that we've waited for 60 years."

Before Chen's arrival at the hotel, police dispersed a small group of protesters who unfurled a banner reading "Bandit Chen Yunlin Get Out" from the hotel's 7th floor.

Thousands of police were deployed at the airport and hotel, where they prepared barbed wire barricades with large nets to block eggs or other items thrown by protesters. A pro-independence group, Taiwan Society North, has offered cash rewards for protesters who hit Chen with eggs.

Petraeus signals US priorities with Pakistan visit

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—Gen. David Petraeus, newly tasked with responsibility for America's two wars, arrived in Pakistan on Sunday as part of his first international trip as head of the U.S. Central Command.

Petraeus' trip signals Pakistan's crucial role in the fight against terrorism, particularly the escalating war in neighboring Afghanistan.

But it also comes amid tensions over suspected American missile strikes in Pakistan—a U.S. ally threatened with financial ruin, torn by an Islamic insurgency and armed with nuclear weapons.

Petraeus, who took the new position on Friday after 20 months as the top U.S. commander in Baghdad, was accompanied by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher, the U.S. Embassy confirmed late Sunday.

Acting embassy spokesman Wes Robertson declined to provide specifics of the schedule for the two Americans but said they would meet with government and military officials.

In Pakistan's northwest border region, a suicide bomber detonated his vehicle at a checkpoint on Sunday, killing eight troops just hours before Petraeus' arrival.

The attacker rammed his vehicle at a checkpoint near the main gate of the Zalai Fort as Frontier Corps troops gathered nearby, said Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas, the Pakistan army's top spokesman. Eight people died and four were wounded, he said.

AP

Villagers use their sarongs to catch offerings thrown by Hindu worshippers during Kasada festival at Mount Bromo, East Java, Indonesia, Monday, Sept. 15, 2008.

Indonesians appease volcano gods with sacrifices

MOUNT BROMO, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian legend has it that six centuries ago, a princess hurled her youngest child into a fiery volcano to appease mountain gods who had granted her fertility.

Today thousands of pilgrims flock to Mount Bromo on East Java each year to offer the spirits food, live animals and money and ask for prosperity and health. Bromo, a 7,641-foot volcano, is one of Java's most popular tourist attractions.

The poor arrive days ahead of the ceremony, carrying fishing nets to catch money and anything edible. They camp under tarps in the crater atop the mountain's chilly slopes.

Yadnya Kasada, as the ritual is known, started in the 15th century in the final days of the Majapahit Hindu empire. As the story goes, Princess Roro Anteng and her husband, Joko Seger, settled in the foothills of the volcano.

Unable to have children, the ruling couple went in despair to pray to the mountain gods who, according to the tale, agreed to help in exchange for the ultimate sacrifice of their last child.

The couple consented and had 25 children. But when the time came to give up their son, they refused and the gods became furious. They threatened disaster and the destruction of the village unless the couple made good on the deal.

Kesuma, as the boy was named, was flung into the depths of Mount Bromo. The dying child is believed to have called out to villagers to visit the mountain each year and bring gifts to express their gratitude.

Indonesia straddles the "Pacific Ring of Fire," a system of faultlines stretching across the tropical archipelago, that give it more active volcanoes than any other country.

World

Iraq expects answer on security deal after US vote

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq expects an American response to requested changes in a draft security pact soon after this week's U.S. presidential election, an aide to the prime minister said Sunday.

Another Iraqi official said the U.S. indicated it would accept all the proposed changes except one—greater Iraqi legal control over American soldiers and contractors.

Yassin Majeed said the U.S. response would come after Tuesday's vote so the president-elect—either Barack Obama or John McCain—could be briefed on the Iraqi proposals, which were submitted by Iraq's Cabinet last week.

Iraqi lawmakers say the changes are essential in order to win parliamentary approval for the deal, which would keep American troops in this country until 2012 and give the Iraqis a greater role in the conduct of U.S. military operations.

Parliament must approve the agreement before the year-end expiration of the U.N. mandate that allows coalition forces to operate here legally.

Without an agreement or a new U.N. mandate, the U.S. military would have to suspend its mission, and the U.S. military's future in Iraq would be up to the man who takes office in January.

McCain supported the 2003 invasion of Iraq and the troop surge which helped turn the tide.

Obama opposed the invasion and said negotiations on a security agreement should be conducted as part of a "broader commitment" to begin withdrawing the troops. Obama's campaign Web site says the Democratic candidate believes the agreement also should be approved by Congress.

Among other things, the Iraqis are now asking for a ban on using their territory to attack neighboring countries, removal of language that might allow the U.S. to stay here past 2011 and changes in a clause providing limited Iraqi jurisdiction over U.S. troops.

The current draft provides for limited Iraqi jurisdiction for major crimes committed off post and off duty.

The Iraqis want a joint U.S.-Iraqi committee to decide whether accused soldiers were off duty or on authorized missions.

Another aide to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said he met with U.S. officials Saturday and was told that Washington was prepared to accept all those changes except the one involving jurisdiction.

Children bear brunt of Congo's humanitarian crisis

KIBATI, Congo (AP)—They wail and yell to show their distress: the youngest victims of eastern Congo's latest eruption of violence have no other way to say they're famished, sick and weary.

Thousands spent the night in the open, their mothers trying vainly to shield them from the chilly rain with cotton cloth or plastic sheets torn from sacks. Many are so weak and malnourished they have no protection against disease.

The U.N. humanitarian agency said Sunday that the violence has forced 250,000 people from their homes since rebels began their offensive in late August, swelling a refugee population that already stood at 1 million. More than 60 percent of the refugees are children, according to UNICEF.

Aid groups say that children are being disproportionately hit by a crisis that could expand into a full-blown humanitarian disaster if assistance is not widely distributed soon.

"We're all so hungry. And today it doesn't look like we'll get any food again," said 13-year-old Louise Maombi, who was comforting her sick 3-year-old brother outside a free clinic in a camp nearly four miles (six kilometers) north of the provincial capital of Goma. Twishime was sweating, running a high fever and crying that his body ached—typical signs of malaria.

Jaya Murthy, the spokesman in Goma for UNICEF, said emergency food, medication and tablets to chlorinate water had arrived from Rwanda on Saturday and would soon be distributed at the Kibati camp. With many aid workers having fled eastern Congo, the U.N. humanitarian agency said it would be Tuesday before food would arrive at Kibati, where the population has swelled from 15,000 to 50,000.

Even before the latest crisis, children at Kibati were reaching the "emergency threshold" where 10 percent are "skin and bones and the last stage before they perish," Murthy said.

"We know the children are famished," he said. "We don't normally feel the type of desperation" displayed this week at Kibati.

WORLD BRIEFS

Chavez says Obama win could spur talks with US

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said Sunday that he is willing to talk with Barack Obama if the Democratic candidate wins Tuesday's election. Chavez says that relations between Venezuela and the U.S., now at their lowest point in years, could improve in an Obama presidency. During a televised speech, Chavez said he would meet with Obama only "on equal and respectful terms." Alejandro Miyar, a spokesman for the Obama campaign, told The Associated Press on Sunday night that "Hugo Chavez does not govern democratically and relations between our countries will not improve unless Venezuela respects democracy and the rule of law. That is the clear message that Barack Obama will deliver to Venezuela as president." Chavez ordered the U.S. ambassador out of Venezuela on Sept. 12, accusing the envoy of involvement in a purported assassination plot. U.S. officials deny it.

Twin bombing kills 6 in central Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP)—Police say two bombs have exploded in a central Baghdad square, killing six people and wounding 21 others. A security official said 10 of their officers were among those injured in the blasts. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the press. Monday's explosions caused extensive damage to shops lining Tahariyat square in Baghdad's predominantly Shiite east half of the city, known as Rusafa.

Gunmen kill Mexican police, cartel capo caught

TOLUCA, Mexico (AP)—Eleven policemen have been shot to death near Mexico City in a three-day string of drug-gang attacks, prosecutors said Sunday. Mexico State prosecutor Alberto Bazbaz said 10 suspects believed linked to drug gangs have been arrested in the killings, which mainly occurred on highways and at police checkpoints in the state that loops around Mexico's capital. Some of the suspects were carrying rifles and grenades at the time of their arrest. Bazbaz said that many of the suspects were from the neighboring state of Michoacan, a hotbed of drug violence dominated by a drug gang known as "The Family." But he said evidence indicates that low-level traffickers and criminals, rather than organized cartel hit squads, were responsible for the attacks. It was not clear if the killings were part of a coordinated plan.

Overdrive

Dumbing down an SUV prodigy

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Ford Motor acts like a smart kid seeking popularity by acting dumb. It has all of the stuff necessary to be at the head of the class, certainly enough to be among those students on the dean's list or honor roll.

But it continually succumbs to the nonsense of "keeping it real," being like everybody else, worse than the best.

The same silliness is manifested in politics, in the national hunger for a man or woman of the people. We want our leaders to be as ordinary as we are. That is why we often are led astray.

At Ford, this goofiness is manifested in the 2009 Ford Escape compact sport-utility vehicle, the original version of which was introduced a decade ago.

At birth, the Escape was something of a prodigy. It was small enough to make sense in the city, rugged enough to survive in the outback, fuel-efficient enough to get through an economic downturn.

It can be argued that the Escape was so good that it set an example for the competition, especially in the category of fuel efficiency for small SUVs. But like the smart kid afraid of losing dumb friends, the Escape, with the blessing of its Ford parents, slowed its pace toward excellence, allowing competitors to catch and pass it in the marketplace.

Let us, for example, consider the matter of brakes.

Disc brakes are more effective than drum brakes. Four-wheel disc brakes are better at reducing stopping distance than an arrangement of disc brakes up front and drum brakes in the rear.

The rival Honda CR-V, Toyota Rav4 and Hyundai Santa Fe—Hyundai!—all come with ventilated discs up front and solid disc brakes in the rear. They all stop smartly when those brakes are applied. What about the Escape?

Smart kids who value popularity over intellect or academic achievement frequently do dumb things to sabotage their progress. Thus was the case with the Ford Escape.

The Escape once came to us with disc brakes front and rear. That was a good arrangement, a smart setup. But the Escape was losing the popularity contest in styling. So, the people at Ford decided to spiff it up for model year 2008, giving it a complete makeover inside and out, an effort highlighted by an attractive chrome grille that simultaneously bespeaks elegance and ruggedness.

Interior materials were improved along with fit and finish and general ergonomics. Horsepower was ramped up in the standard inline four-cylinder Escape, as well as in the six-cylinder model driven for this column. Also, like a teenager with the latest telecommunications and infotainment gizmos, the Escape got all of those—in the form of the onboard Microsoft/Ford Sync communications system.

Apparently, the people at Ford thought that looking good, flexing more muscle and getting hip with electronics were good enough — because they proceeded to do something unspeakably dumb. They replaced the Escape's rear disc brakes, which worked wonderfully well, with substantially less effective rear drum brakes.

The new Escape, as a result, is something of a dullard when it comes to stopping. Its driver has to concentrate on keeping a safe stopping distance between it and the vehicle ahead. That's something that drivers should do anyway. But in the new Escape, maintaining a safe stopping distance is mandatory.

I'm totally flummoxed here. I feel like a parent looking at the academic report of a one-time "A" student who has brought home "Cs" and "Ds." I need to speak to a counselor. I just don't get it.

Why would Ford do something as dumb as ditch highly effective four-wheel-disc brakes for a front disc-rear drum setup? Was it to cut costs? Has mediocrity become "Job One" at Ford? What's going on here? The answer escapes me.

THE WASHINGTON POST
Ford's makeover of the 2009 Escape XLT resulted in an attractive compact SUV, inside and out. But the company replaced the car's rear disc brakes with less effective drum brakes.

NUTS & BOLTS

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINTS
Those rear drum brakes have to go. Nuts!

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING
The Escape's ride and handling are very good, with both enhanced by rigid body construction. Highway acceleration is competent, meaning that normal drivers should have no problems entering freeways and changing lanes. Braking is worst in class.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT
Very attractive, inside and out.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT
The Escape is a front-engine, compact SUV with four side doors and a rear liftgate. It is available with front-wheel or all-wheel drive. There are three trim/equipment levels — XLS, XLT and Limited.

ENGINES/TRANSMISSIONS
The all-wheel-drive Escape XLT driven for this column came with a three-liter, 24-valve V-6 engine that develops 240 horsepower at 6,550 revolutions per minute and 223 foot-pounds of torque at 4,300 rpm. It was mated to a six-speed automatic transmission. A 175-horsepower inline, four-cylinder engine and five-speed manual transmission are available.

CAPACITIES
There are seats for five people. With rear seats up, luggage capacity is 29.2 cubic feet. It expands to 66 cubic feet with rear seats down. The V-6 model can be equipped to tow up to 3,500 pounds. Fuel capacity is 16.5 gallons of recommended regular unleaded gasoline.

MILEAGE
The V-6 gets close to the federal estimate of 17 miles per gallon in the city and 24 miles per gallon on the highway. The inline four-cylinder model affords slightly better mileage, also using regular unleaded gasoline.

SAFETY
Standard equipment includes four-wheel antilock brakes (in a less-than-optimum front disc/rear drum setup), front and head air bags, electronic stability and traction control.

PRICE
The 2009 Escape XLT with all-wheel drive starts at $25,875. Dealer's invoice price on the base model is $23,991. Price as tested is $30,720, including $3,670 in options (Microsoft/Ford Sync onboard navigation and telecommunications system, premium sound system, power glass roof, trailer towing equipment, aluminum wheels) and a $725 destination charge. Dealer's price as tested is $27,836. At this writing, a $1,500 consumer rebate is available. Prices are sourced from Ford, Edmunds.com and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE
The Escape is an "A" student trying hard to fit in with the "C" crowd. It has much going for it. But its rear drum brakes are less than acceptable.

CRUISIN'

Wipe on, wipe off

By GREG ZYLA
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: Greg, I've seen some commercials on television about a product called Cajun something or other that is supposed to clean, wax, polish and protect in one step. Do these products really work? I'm tempted to try it, but don't want to waste any money or ruin the paint on my car.—Bob R., Pennsylvania

A: Bob, the product you refer to is called "All In One Cajun Shine All Detailing Kit," with has been promoted on television and newspapers nationwide. This product does work, as I've tried it on my own car.

If you follow the directions, it works great. The one thing the company clearly states is not to use the product on a hot surface, so make sure your car is cool when you use the Cajun Shine All product.

Cajun is a scientific, high-tech, water-based, all-purpose liquid protectant containing micronized waxes, polymers, anti-static dirt and moisture repellants and ultraviolet blockers, and is to be used only with the cloth that comes in the package.

Notable, too, is that many professional race teams have used products like Cajan Shine All for years for quick shines between rounds at the drag strip. The best feature about this product is that your car doesn't need pre-washing, just a little water to dampen the cleaning cloth prior to application.

Like I said, I've tried it and it works, so don't hesitate. For more info on Cajun Shine All, see its Web page at www.cajunshineall.com or call 1-800-853-2880 to order.

■■■

Q: Greg, I just blew my second rear end in my 2001 Firebird Trans Am with a six-speed transmission. What kind of rear should I put in, as I'm done with the stock rear? My car is modified a bit, too. Also, what ratio would you recommend for street and strip use?—Calvin, New Jersey

A: Calvin, there are many rears to choose from, from many reputable companies, including Moser, Currie, Strange and a host of others that offer Ford 9-inch, Dana and Chevy 12-bolt rear ends. The bottom line is that you must replace that rear end.

I just went through the same process with my son and his Z28 Camaro. We bought a Moser M9 unit with a Detroit Locker, aluminum case and 35 spline axles, and then some suspension components from BMR Fabrication. I'll let you know up front it's not cheap to buy a quality replacement rear, so be prepared to spend from $2,500 to $4,000, depending on what kit you buy, and then more for the stronger suspension components needed to hook up your power.

As for ratios, since you have a six speed, a 4:10 is not out of the question, as that sixth gear will still give you some decent fuel mileage. If your car were an automatic, I'd recommend nothing lower than a 3.73 to a 3.89 for obvious street fuel-mileage reasons.

You also might want to check out offerings from Richmond Gear, as it supplies some great transmissions in addition to ring and pinions. All of these companies are easily found on the Internet.

Write to Greg Zyla in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to gzyla@ptd.net.

Life & Style

Dealing with the 'firsts'

By JOJO DASS
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: JoJo Dass is a former writer for Beach Road Magazine *and a long-time resident of Saipan. He recently moved to Dubai, where he now writes for an automotive magazine. The following is an excerpt from* Being Here: Notes from Dubai.

Perhaps, the most challenging part of being in a different place for the first time is dealing with the "firsts"—the first people you meet at the airport's arrivals section, first strange overseas phone card, first car ride, first look at the place, first meal—the list goes on.

The moment I got off the plane at the Dubai International Airport, I quickly followed a herd of fellow Filipinos scurrying somewhere. It being my first time at that airport, and thinking that my countrymen, who appeared to be all too familiar with the place, knew what they're doing and where they're headed, I closely tailed them, hoping they'd end up at some immigration line; well, yes, they knew what they're doing and where they're headed—they stopped at a boarding gate, dropped their bags and sat down. They were in transit and were headed elsewhere—Turkey, I gathered.

So I turned back and asked an airport staff where to go, and she politely directed me to the immigration section where, after a good 10 minutes' walk, I saw hundreds of people in rows queuing to have their passports stamped at the counter manned by airport staff donned in traditional Arabic garbs.

"Okay," I told myself, "I'm on the right track."

Getting out of the airport was another thing. The guy who was supposed to pick me up was not there—my nine-hour, overnight, Oct. 13, 2008, Emirates flight from Manila that left 1:45am was supposed to have taken off at 12:40am that same day; the delay, the pilot told us, was caused by some discrepancies in passenger documentation, whatever that meant.

I needed a phone card so I could get a hold of my contact and let him know. It was, to me, a strange phone card; user-friendly, but still strange. The airport crowd looked strange, too.

At the phone booth, after I was done calling my contact to pick me up, two Indian nationals approached me, asking for assistance in their native tongue, apparently mistaking me to be one of them. I told them I'm Indian-Filipino and that, although I pretty much look like them, I could not understand what they were trying to say—in English, of course. But they didn't understand me either, so they kept talking to me, their hand gestures and facial expressions telling me they needed to know how the strange phone card works. So I did what I could: I asked for their phone card—in gestures, too—swiped it in the machine then asked them for a number, again in English, but they still couldn't get it! They stared at me for a good half a second and then started babbling again!

This is not working, I told myself. My first overseas encounter with members of my dad's race is not working. I begged out, told them I'm sorry I could not help them, and walked away with my bags; I looked back and caught them still staring at me.

Funny, I thought, the Filipina salesclerk at the Duty Free Shop from where I bought my phone card also gave me that 10-yard stare as I was walking away from her—I had asked her for the card and conversed with her in Filipino during our transaction. She called me "kuya" (big brother), and that was good enough.

I finally hopped into my contact's car—a big one, which is what most people in Dubai are driving—and was soon on my way to where I'd be staying. On the road, I marveled at how awesome Dubai is. The place is like Makati and Ortigas—business centers in Manila where most of the high rises are—lumped into one and expanded 10-fold!

Hovering up the sky were helicopters flying executives to their offices.

Of course, there's the smog that seem to give you a mere peep of what would have otherwise been a magnificently spectacular widescreen view of skyscrapers, like towering dinosaur spines, jutting out to the heavens. There were also the eight lanes with bumper-to-bumper traffic; bright side to this is that you could go car-watching, especially when caught in heavy traffic, and catch Jags, Cadillacs, Bentleys, Rolls Royces, Porches, Corvettes, Lexuses, BMWs, Benzes, Audis, souped-up Hummers, Rovers, Armadas, Jeeps, and Escalades; Toyota Camrys are for taxis.

However, my first day in Dubai soon turned numbingly boring. I was told to catch up on some rest and was left in my room the whole day, with nothing but the incessant humming of the airconditioner to remind me I was still kicking (The TV was off and I did not want to touch it so as not to be disrespectful to the owner). It was scorching hot outside. You could probably walk the street for about 15 minutes with an egg in your hand and come back home to see that it has become soft boiled. No kidding! Sunny-side up you want? Then just crack the egg open on your head and walk in the sun.

My first stop at the nearby mom-and-pop store, which was a good 10-minute walk away, was not without an incident, too—I lost my way home. I kept walking round and round the block not knowing I was in a wrong street, and it was 1pm—perhaps the lack of sleep (I was watching movies on the plane all night), the jetlag (Dubai is four hours behind Manila), and that nagging feeling to get back to the comfort of my room, though cramped as it was, away from the sun only aggravated the situation and blurred my thoughts. Come to think of it, I went out to have soda and something to eat; but by the time I was finally able to trace my way back to my room, I felt like having just gone through some extreme sport competition and was so thirsty I wanted to get back to the store! I dared not.

My first encounter with Dubai's ubiquitous "Du" phone card was nightmarish! I couldn't follow the instructions. I kept going through it again and again. I so badly needed to place a call to Saipan, which is six hours ahead of Dubai, and the rush to do so, plus the fact that I have gotten so used to the Saipan phone cards and was now using an entirely different system, must have complicated things. I gave up. It was only after my roommate—who happened to own the TV and whom I met for the first time that evening, arriving home from work visibly dead-tired and hungry and having the most unwelcome misfortune of having to listen to my litany of gripes about the phone card—checked out my cell phone was I able to make a call. But alas! It was already 2am on Saipan.

My first day of work, which was the day after I flew in, was, well, kind of rattling. It was an attempt to hook in smoothly, level off with the staff—three Filipinos including long-time friend Flor Pamintuan with whom I'd worked with back on Saipan; two Indians and an Arab who edits another magazine and does translations—and get things off the ground fast. Hired as editor of *Car Xpress*, a motoring magazine that was way behind schedule for its next issue, my bosses, during a meeting held first thing that morning, all so kindly requested that I wrap things up with whatever was on hand, send the mag to the press asap, and move on to the next issue. It sounded easy except that I was not familiar with how things work in the office. Exacerbating matters was the technical faux pas on my end. I was given a laptop and soon was pounding away; but I kept coming back to the technician asking questions he must have increasingly found stupid because he was soon replying in a raised voice—sounded that way to me. Fortunately, none of my straws broke his back. But what could I do? I opened Google and it came out in Arabic!

My first stop at the grocery store was an experience. Being Indian-Filipino, I grew up seeing a mix of Pinoy and Indian cuisine on the family table—on weekends, my mother would cook Filipino dishes; dad's sisters would bring Indian food.

Indian and Mediterranean cuisine are cousins.

So imagine the look on my face when I saw rows upon rows of spicy seasonings and herbs, flat round bread that my Indian aunties would call *roti*, lamb chops, marinated lamb liver, shawarma, ready-made kabbab, garlic sauce and everything Arabian. I was in that trance-like state, if you will, savoring the smell of curry, turmeric powder and masala mix, eyes almost half-closed, when I noticed two Arab women in their traditional black dresses covering everything but their eyes, looking at me as they passed by. It reminded me of the Rolling Stones' "Paint it Black"… *"I see people turn their heads and quickly look away…. It doesn't matter now it just happens everyday…."* or something like that.

It's weird when you could only see pairs of eyes looking at you, not knowing for sure if the hidden faces were smiling or frowning.

I went home that evening and treated myself to fried, marinated lamb liver and round flat bread with olive oil—my first decent meal since I got here three days ago.

I guess the "firsts" are the ones you have to take off your plate fast to get the knack of how it is to be living in a place away from home, alone.

I wonder how my first Christmas here would be.

The Onion plans wall-to-wall satire for election

the ONION
America's Finest News Source
GET SMART
62%
Barbara Bush Runs Aground Off Coast Of Maine
In The Know: Has Halloween Become Overcommercialized?
Halloween Restrictions Against Sex Offenders Blocked
Obama's Record-Breaking Fundraising Effort Bankrupting NPR, World Wildlife Fund, ACLU
SEARCH

By JAKE COYLE
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Days before the January 2001 inauguration of President Bush, the Onion ran a story headlined: "Bush: 'Our Long National Nightmare of Peace and Prosperity Is Finally Over.'"

Writers at the satirical paper still speak reverentially of the story, in which Bush promises to take the country into a deep recession, worsen the environment and "end the severe war drought that plagued the nation under Clinton."

"Wow, was that prescient," marvels Joe Garden, the Onion's features editor.

Whether or not you share that political viewpoint, the Bush era will end soon and the political comedy epicenter will shift to Barack Obama or John McCain.

At the Onion—"America's finest news source," as it calls itself—this change in the Oval Office is a welcome opportunity for new material after eight years of Bush and an interminable presidential campaign.

"Everyone started being like, 'Nothing is funny in politics. We're done talking about it,'" says Assistant Editor Megan Ganz.

Regardless of who's elected Tuesday, it's clear satire has won in 2008. "Saturday Night Live," "The Daily Show" and "The Colbert Report" have all been at the top of their game, with record ratings to show for it.

But the Onion is a slower moving, more broadly social animal of satire. It is, as Editor Joe Randazzo calls it, "the satirical newspaper of record."

Report: 60 Million People You'd Never Talk to Voting for the Other Guy

Founded 20 years ago by two students from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, the Onion gradually grew under Editor Scott Dickers and went national in 1996 when it started its Web site. (The move was partially inspired by the viral spreading of the story: "Clinton Deploys Vowels to Bosnia: Cities of Sjbvdnzv, Grzny to be first recipients.")

It was around then that the Onion really honed its approach as always rigidly couched in dry writing style with slick graphic displays.

The paper, distributed weekly in 10 cities, has a circulation of about 900,000 and is now based in New York. The more profitable Web site draws 5.5 million unique visitors per month and earlier this year won seven Webby awards, second only to The New York Times.

All the while, the Onion has spread to other media forms. It has published numerous best-selling books, including the rewrite of history, "Our Dumb Century," and the mock atlas, "Our Dumb World," which was just released in paperback.

The paper also comes with a serious and respected entertainment section of criticism called the A.V. Club. Onion Radio News is a daily one-minute podcast that consistently ranks among the most popular on iTunes.

And last year, the Onion launched the Onion News Network, a parody of a 24-hour TV news network, perhaps the Onion's most costly startup with a staff now of 20 making videos with high production value.

ONN executive producer Will Graham and head writer Carol Kolb (a former editor of the paper) translated the Onion sensibility to video, with stories such as "John McCain accidentally left on campaign bus."

The talent, Graham says, is often instructed to read the news without the slightest hint that they're joking.

"Think 'Schindler's List,'" they're told.

Though the ONN—which produces 15 videos a month—may not yet be as profitable as the rest of the Onion projects, Randazzo says the privately held Onion Inc. is "pretty healthy fiscally" despite the downturn in ad sales brought on by the economic crisis.

"I try to avoid the idea that people care a lot about the Onion, or at all about the Onion," says Garden, who has been with the Onion since 1990. "Then you're sort of infected with a weird sense of self-importance and that just doesn't fit with what the Onion is. The Onion started as an outsider publication, I think the Onion works best as an outsider publication."

Obama Warns He May Cease to Exist Unless America Believes in Him

The Onion centers its election coverage at a site separate from the main Onion page (http://www.theonion.com/content/whitehousewar). It includes candidate profiles, videos and a glossary ("debate: a contest to see which candidate can answer the fewest questions").

It will offer continuous Election Day coverage (and the day after). This might be as reactive as the Onion has ever been; the videos take months to prepare and each paper issue is created about two weeks in advance.

"We are kind of more a gauge of culture," says Randazzo. "But everything is mediated through this lens of the upcoming election that it has become sort of necessary for us to really do a little more coverage than we normally would."

To prepare for whatever happens Tuesday, the Onion has—like a real newspaper—organized coverage for either a McCain win or an Obama win. Both video and text stories have been completed for both eventualities.

After so many jokes from not just the Onion but all the other outlets of satire, it's not easy to keep mining new material. But the Onion has continued to thrive largely because it fiercely guards against repetition.

On the back of the door to the writers room, for example, is a list of "no-no words," which Garden explains as "overused comedy tropes." A few: William Shatner, home schooling, DVD commentary tracks, Battleship, soccer.

Tired jokes are just as easy for an election stretched over two years. Ganz says the prospect of Obama jokes have lightened the room, producing sillier stories like the Onion ran during the Clinton years.

"We get asked a lot if we secretly want Republicans to win since there's so much more material," she says. "The thing is, we always say, we have to live in the country, too. And also, when stuff is really going bad, it's harder to make jokes."

Creating those jokes is a communal affair at the Onion.

Ten writers and editors congregate every week in a room surrounded by dry-erase board to pitch headlines (all stories start with the headline) and select about 16. A writer will be chosen for each—often not who wrote the headline—and everyone will discuss how to approach the piece. Later, several editors will go over it.

Watching the humor of each story dissected is a rapid-paced marvel. The mostly young staff analyzes a story's tone, perspective, kicker and meaning.

Giving specific examples from a recent meeting would spoil the jokes (they're for mid-November) but, to give a flavor, the scattershot dialogue touched on the corporate structure of lip balm companies, if franks and beans is funnier than macaroni salad, and how many people recognize Walter Becker as a member of Steely Dan.

Sometimes the Onion hits the media's voice so accurately, it's confused for the real thing. For example, a video by ONN's "Today Now!" (a morning show satire) proclaimed "Child Bankrupts Make-A-Wish Foundation With Wish For Unlimited Wishes." Neither the foundation nor a handful of wishful toddlers were amused.

Bruce Springsteen Concert Totally Changes Area Man's Mind About Voting

The motto of the Onion is "Tu stultus es," Latin for: "You are dumb."

So, the Onion's approach frequently is through the prism of the average person's relationship to politics, the news and the media.

This is often expressed by ... "area man."

"Any time you give the average person the opportunity to explain themselves on a national scale, they're always going to sound like a fool," Ganz says of "area man," immediately fearing that she might sound like him.

Like many people, the Onion staff is ready to have the election over with. In satirizing the media's excessive ramping up of election coverage, the Onion has been forced to do the same.

In Loving Memory of our beloved

Leonardo Deleon Guerrero Camacho

Born on February 29, 1936 and called to eternal rest on October 28, 2008

Predeceased by:
Parents: †Juan Compos and †Soledad Deleon Guerrero Camacho
Parents in Law: †Jose D. and †Ana L. Takai
Son: †Lawrence T. Camacho
Brothers and Sisters: †Jose Deleon Guerrero Camacho, †Rosalia C. Flores, and †Magdalena C. Benavente
Brothers in Law: †Lorenzo T. Flores, †Jose L. Takai and †Bobby Danford

Survived by:
Spouse: Rita T. Camacho
Children:
Irene T. Camacho (Soledad Camacho (Iyana))
Maria C. & Jesse Arizala (Jerlisa, Jessica (Clarisa), Christopher)
Joanne T. Camacho (Sydney (Leoney and Cody), Steven/Caroline (Javin), Jaclyn, Nathan)
Juan T. Camacho & Stephanie Aulerio (Regina, Keoni, Zoranelle)
Joseph T. Camacho & Rose Gibbons (Jocelyn, Lawrence, Ria)
†Lawrence T. Camacho (Leisha, Leonardo)
William T. Camacho &Valerie S. Camacho (Kaliko, Shanice, Jesse)
Rodney T. Camacho & Carmen C. Camacho (Ronie Cherise)

Brothers, Sister & In Laws:
Marcelino Dlg. & Cecilia T. Camacho, Francisco Dlg. & Victoria B. Camacho, Margarita C. Sablan

Brothers and Sisters in Law:
Carlos L. & Trinidad T. Takai, Fina Takai, Oscar L. & Sinforosa C. Takai, Salvador L. & Remedio A. Takai, Eluterio L. & Magdena L. Takai, Juan L. & Rosie F. Takai, Ramon L.& Juanita I. Takai, Dolore T. & Gregorio Arriola, Mathida L. Takai, Pablo L. Takai, Dorothea T. Danford

Morning mass is being offered at 6am at Kristo Rai Church followed by nightly rosary at 7pm.

On Wednesday, November 5th, 2008, the remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral at 7am followed by Responso Service at 8am. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30am. Interment service will follow at Chalan Kanoa Catholic Cemetery.

Dangkulo na si yu'us maase. Thank you for your prayers.

Ginen I Familia

‘High School Musical 3’ is head of class at movies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hollywood made audiences repeat senior year. Disney’s “High School Musical 3: Senior Year” hauled in $15 million to remain the top movie for the second straight weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Starring Zac Efron and Vanessa Hudgens in a big-screen sequel to the Disney Channel TV movies, “High School Musical 3” raised its 10-day total to $61.8 million.

Debuting at No. 2 with $10.7 million was the Weinstein Co. comedy “Zack and Miri Make a Porno,” starring Seth Rogen and Elizabeth Banks as pals who do a skin flick to dig themselves out of debt.

Lionsgate’s horror sequel “Saw V,” the latest tale about psychokiller Jigsaw, slipped from second place to third with $10.1 million, lifting its 10-day total to $45.8 million.

Expanding nationwide after a weekend in limited release was Clint Eastwood’s “Changeling,” which took in $9.4 million to finish at No. 4. The Universal Pictures drama stars Angelina Jolie as a single mother victimized by police who botched the investigation into her missing son.

Freestyle Releasing’s “The Haunting of Molly Hartley” debuted with $6 million to come in at No. 5. The movie stars Haley Bennett as a traumatized teen who finds fresh terror at her new school.

“RocknRolla”—the latest from Madonna’s soon-to-be-ex-husband, Guy Ritchie - was a dud as it expanded from limited to nationwide release. The crime romp featuring Gerard Butler and Thandie Newton took in just $1.8 million, finishing well outside the top 10. Madonna and Ritchie announced their separation last month.

After a big surge the previous weekend, Hollywood revenues plunged. The top 12 movies took in $75.2 million, off 38 percent from the same weekend last year, when “American Gangster” opened with $43.6 million and “Bee Movie” debuted with $38 million.

Non-scary movies were hurt with Halloween falling on Friday. “High School Musical 3” did just $1.7 million on Friday, but it rebounded with $8.2 million Saturday.

“The target audience was out collecting candy or trick-or-treating Friday, but Saturday came back like a monster,” said Mark Zoradi, president of Disney’s motion-picture group.

Likewise, “Zack and Miri” opened with only $2.2 million Friday but pulled in $4.8 million Saturday. The movie also faced some audience resistance over the racy subject matter and the word “Porno” in the title.

“I would anecdotally speculate that that hurt us,” said Steve Bunnell, head of distribution for Weinstein, which had trouble placing ads because of the movie’s title and themes. “We were surprised that we ended up with the controversy. We thought everybody in America would understand that it was a joke.”

The film has nudity but is tame compared to hard-core adult films. Yet the ratings board of the Motion Picture Association of America initially slapped it with an NC-17 rating, the kiss of death at the box office.

Writer-director Kevin Smith talked it down to an R rating on appeal.

James Bond got off to a big start overseas in advance of the U.S. debut of the super-spy’s latest adventure, with Sony’s “Quantum of Solace” taking in $38.6 million in Great Britain, France and Sweden.

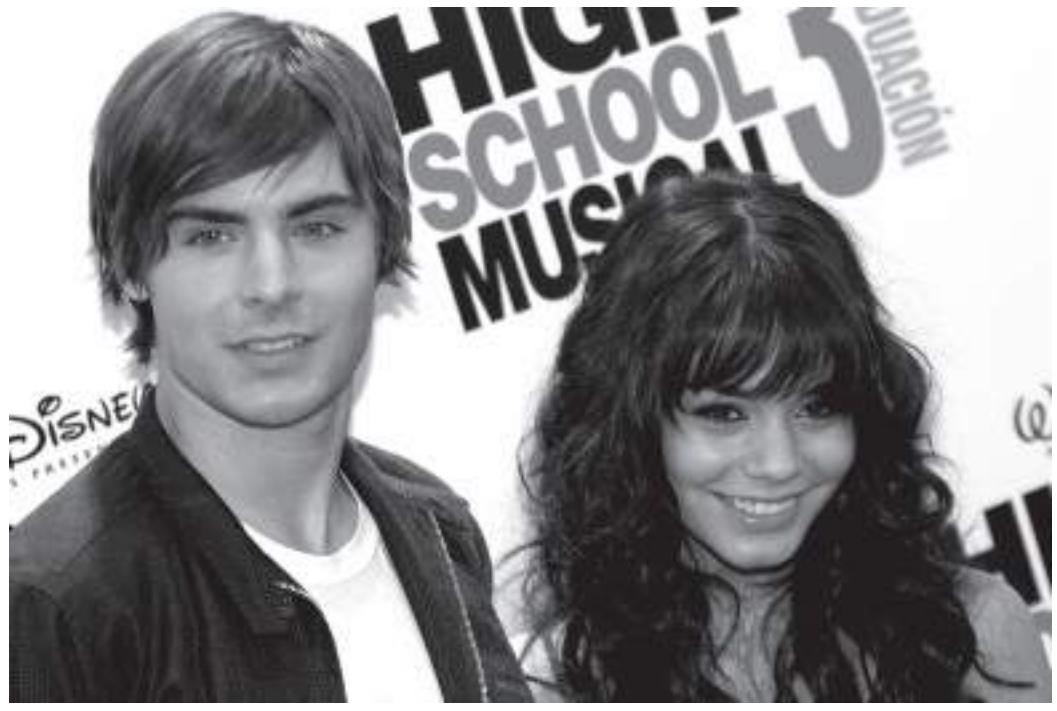
“Quantum of Solace” opens in 57 more countries this week and arrives in U.S. theaters Nov. 14. The film picks up where 2006’s “Casino Royale” left off, with Bond (Daniel Craig) out for payback over his lover’s death.

Hollywood blockbusters rarely open weeks in advance of their U.S. premiere, but the Bond franchise does a huge ratio of its business overseas. “Casino Royale” took in 72 percent of its $600 million worldwide total outside the United States, said Mark Zucker, Sony’s president of international distribution.

“Bond is like a national hero in the UK,” Zucker said.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

1. **“High School Musical 3: Senior Year,”** $15 million.
2. **“Zack and Miri Make a Porno,”** $10.7 million.
3. **“Saw V,”** $10.1 million.
4. **“Changeling,”** $9.4 million.
5. **“The Haunting of Molly Harvey,”** $6 million.
6. **“Beverly Hills Chihuahua,”** $4.7 million.
7. **“The Secret Life of Bees,”** $4 million.
8. **“Max Payne,”** $3.7 million.
9. **“Eagle Eye,”** $3.4 million.
10. **“Pride and Glory,”** $3.3 million.



AP

Zac Efron, left, and Vanessa Hudgens, cast members of the new film High School Musical 3: Senior Year pose for photographers prior to a news conference in Mexico City, Thursday, Oct. 30, 2008.

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

Don’t just go to the movies, GO HOLLYWOOD!

Located near Price Costco in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000

POWER 99 FM SAIPAN, CNMI

$5.25 Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM
$5.25 All Day Admission For Seniors
$4.25 All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
$5.25 Student Admission with Valid I.D.
$5.25 Military with Valid I.D.

TUESDAY BARGAIN $5.25 ALL SHOWS ALL DAY/NIGHT (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS AND RESTRICTED FEATURES)

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.gohollywood.com

dts DOLBY DIGITAL STADIUM SEATING WITH HIGH-BACK LOVESEATS

For Friday, October 31 through Tuesday, November 4 only!
THEATER CLOSED ON WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

★ ★ ★ NOW SHOWING ★ ★ ★

Zack and Miri Make a Porno

Friday		4:15	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:25	4:15	7:20	9:50
Sunday	1:25	4:15	7:20	
Mon and Tue		4:15	7:20	

Seth Rogen, Elizabeth Banks
Romantic Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis
Lifelong friends and roommates Zack and Miri are facing hard times and a mountain of debt. When the electricity and plumbing get cut off, they seize upon the idea of making a homegrown porno movie for some quick cash, enlisting the help of their friends. The two vow that having sex will not ruin their friendship. But as filming begins, what started out as a business proposition between friends turns into something much more.

The Duchess

Friday		4:10	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:25	
Mon and Tue		4:10	7:25	

Keira Knightley, Ralph Fiennes
Drama, Biopic • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Long before the concept existed, the Duchess of Devonshire, Georgiana Spencer, was the original “It Girl.” Like her direct descendent Princess Diana, she was ravishing, glamorous and adored by an entire country. Determined to be a player in the wider affairs of the world, she proved that she could out-gamble, out-drink and outwit most of the aristocratic men who surrounded her. She helped usher in sweeping changes to England as a leader of the forward-thinking Whig Party.

★ ★ ★

High School Musical 3

Friday		4:00	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:15	4:00	7:10	9:45
Sunday	1:15	4:00	7:10	
Mon and Tue		4:00	7:10	

Zac Efron, Ashley Tisdale
Musical • Rated G

Beverly Hills Chihuahua

Friday		4:05	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:05	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:00	4:05	7:00	
Mon and Tue		4:05	7:00	

Drew Barrymore (v), Andy Garcia (v)
Comedy, Adventure • Rated PG

Pride and Glory

Friday		4:30	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:30	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:10	4:30	7:15	
Mon and Tue		4:30	7:15	

Edward Norton, Colin Farrell
Drama, Crime, Animated • Rated R

Eagle Eye

Friday		4:20	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:20	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:20	7:05	
Mon and Tue		4:20	7:05	

Shia LaBeouf, Michelle Monaghan
Drama • Rated PG 13

Max Payne

Friday		4:25	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:30	10:00
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:30	
Mon and Tue		4:25	7:30	

Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Quantum of Solace
Tickets Now on Sale
Opens November 14th
Advanced tickets can be purchased at the Box Office, or online at www.gohollywood.com

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.

www.gohollywood.com

Mourners celebrate lives of slain Hudson relatives

CHICAGO (AP)—Mourners in Jennifer Hudson’s childhood church Sunday listened as the second-grade teacher of the entertainer’s slain nephew read aloud from journals written by his classmates—including one who lamented that Julian King didn’t live long enough to become president.

With three of Julian’s classmates standing by her side, Carmen Williams of Gunsaulus Scholastic Academy remembered the 7-year-old as a smart boy who liked to tell knock-knock jokes.

“When Julian raised his hand, he had that enthusiastic light in his eyes, and he always - always - had the right answer,” Williams said.

Friends and relatives gathered for the memorial service at Pleasant Gift Memorial Baptist Church on the city’s South Side to listen to spiritual songs and reminisce about Julian, as well as Hudson’s mother and brother, who were found shot to death late last month.

Many of those songs featured Hudson, a former “American Idol” contestant with a new album and an Academy Award, who did not attend the service for Darnell Donerson, 57, Jason Hudson, 29, and Julian. Jennifer Hudson’s sister, Julia, also did not attend. Private funeral services are scheduled for Monday.

Mourners dressed in black or white hugged and greeted one another Sunday while music played on the chapel speakers. Large pictures of Jason Hudson and Julian King stood at the front of the room, and relatives took turns recounting stories.

Shari Sweat, a cousin of Darnell Hudson Donerson, called Donerson by her nickname, “Doll,” as she recounted how important the upcoming election was to her.

“Doll refused to be left out of this historical moment in this nation, and before she left these shores she cast her vote,” Sweat said.

Several of Julian’s young cousins sang “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands” as the audience clapped along. Julian’s classmates said he shared his school supplies generously and loved Spider-Man.

One wrote a journal entry after learning of Julian’s death that read, “Julian was smart. I’m sad he didn’t get to be president of the United States.”

Sean Howard, executive assistant to Cook County Board President Todd Stroger, said he was with the Hudson family when they went to the medical examiner’s office last week to identify Julian’s body.

“When Jennifer and her family walked in, Jennifer was a pillar in that room,” Howard said. “You have a true leader in your family in Jennifer.”

Jason Hudson’s cousin, the Rev. Quentin Washington, reminded mourners that he would have turned 30 on Feb. 17. Washington said Hudson recently joked about getting older, saying “his Afro was getting thin.”

Outside, supporters waited in a line that stretched around the block to attend a public ceremony held after the one for friends and family.

Victoria Davidson, 35, of Milwaukee, drove more than an hour to Chicago with her two daughters and niece to show Jennifer Hudson their support. They stood in line for an hour before dropping off a note inside.

Joaquin Phoenix confirms he's done with movies

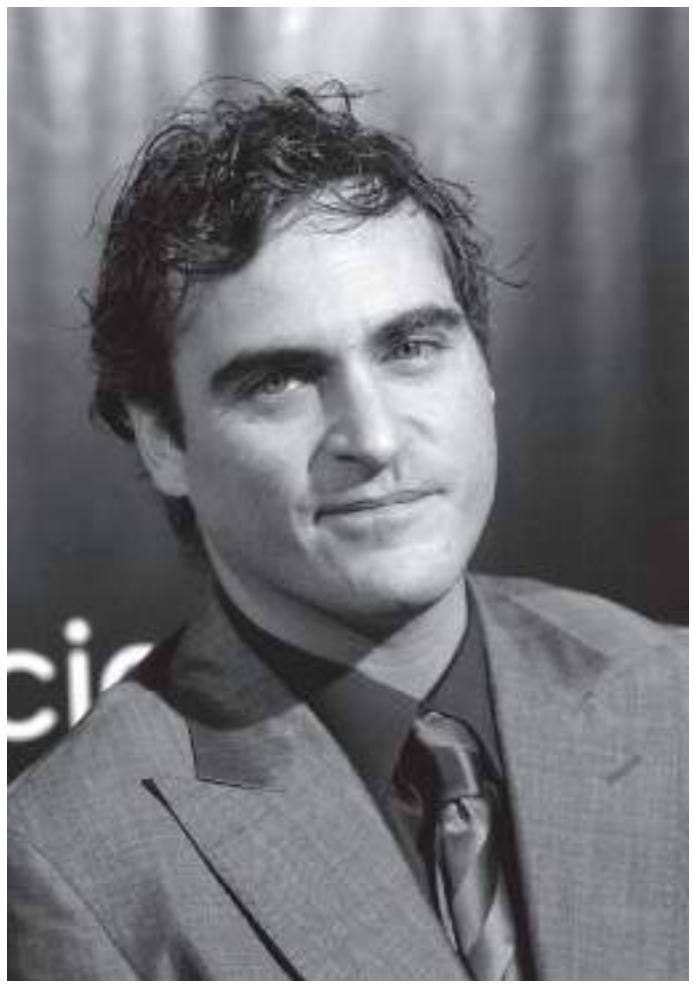
LOS ANGELES (AP)—The writing on Joaquin Phoenix's fists said it all.

The words "Good Bye" were penned on the actor's knuckles at a premiere Saturday night for his latest film, "Two Lovers," and Phoenix confirmed a surprise announcement he made last week: He's giving up movies.

"I think it's just moving on. It's rediscovering something else," said Phoenix, 34, said in an interview with Associated Press Television News before Saturday's American Film Institute festival, which also premiered "Che," starring Benicio Del Toro.

"Two Lovers" is his last film, he said. His publicist had disclosed Friday that the actor intended to focus on music.

Phoenix first mentioned his decision to "Extra" early last week at a fundraiser in San Francisco. He abruptly ended that interview after the reporter wondered whether he was joking about giving up acting for music.



AP

In this Oct. 9, 2007 file photo, Joaquin Phoenix arrives to the New York premiere of the film titled "We Own the Night."

Phoenix learned to play guitar and did his own singing to play country legend Johnny Cash in "Walk the Line," which earned him an Academy Award nomination. His publicist also said Phoenix has been directing music videos in recent years.

"It's like greener pastures, you know what I mean?" Phoenix said Saturday. "And so, I'm just going to try and like, I'll just be doing the other thing. ... Hopefully, I will emotionally impact you with that, as well."

"Two Lovers" stars Phoenix as a heartbroken man torn between a needy, neurotic neighbor (Gwyneth Paltrow) and the sensible woman (Vinessa Shaw) his parents want him to marry. The film, due in theaters early next year, was directed by James Gray, with whom Phoenix also worked on "We Own the Night" and "The Yards."

Def Jam exec dies from self-inflicted gunshot

ATLANTA (AP)—The executive who succeeded Jay-Z as the head of hip-hop music label Def Jam Recordings died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound near Atlanta, police said Sunday.

Executive vice president Shakir Stewart, 34, died on Saturday, his New York-based label said in a statement.

Stewart was found Saturday afternoon in the bathroom of his home in the Atlanta suburb of Marietta, Cobb County police spokeswoman Cassie Reece said Sunday. He was pronounced dead at a nearby hospital.

Police described the shooting as self-inflicted and would not say who discovered Stewart.

Stewart signed such artists as Rick Ross and Young Jeezy to the label before being named in June to the post once filled by Jay-Z.

The Oakland, Calif., native came to Atlanta to attend Morehouse College, where he graduated in 1996, his label said in an announcement for his promotion in June.

He previously worked with the Hitco publishing company, where he signed R&B star Beyonce, and Arista Records, where he signed R&B star Ciara.

Christopher Hicks, a friend of 18 years and fellow music executive, last spoke with Stewart about a week ago.

"Whatever happened over the past 24 hours is not a testament to who we all know," Hicks told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution on Sunday. "He was a one-of-a-kind individual. If you looked on his Blackberry (stamp) it said 'One of one.'"

Painting by Italian master turns up in Texas

DALLAS (AP)—A painting by Italian master Sebastiano Ricci, long presumed to be lost, has turned up in Texas after a 300-year journey from the hands of a European nobleman playboy to a fur trader and finally through generations of one family.

Ricci's "The Vision of St. Bruno" will be offered by Dallas-based Heritage Auction Galleries on Nov. 20. Heritage officials say the painting has been conservatively estimated to fetch at least $600,000.

The family that owns the work asked Heritage chairman of fine arts Edmund Pillsbury a year ago to take a look at a painting they had stored in a warehouse. They thought it could be a Ricci, but Pillsbury was skeptical.

He was floored when he realized that the 3-by-4 foot painting—depicting a robed St. Bruno looking up at a colorful grouping of angels—did indeed appear to be the work of the famous Venetian painter.

"I was not prepared for something that was as good and beautiful as this," said Pillsbury, former director of Fort Worth's Kimbell Art Museum.

Pillsbury said Ricci probably painted St. Bruno around 1705.

Ricci, who died at 74 in 1734, worked for all of the major courts of Europe, Pillsbury said. "His paintings are in all of the great museums," he said.

The last known documentation of the St. Bruno painting was a 1776 catalog of the collection of Count Francesco Algarotti, an 18th century art connoisseur from Venice who advised royalty on their collections and was also known for his colorful love life.

"He was definitely a playboy, but a well-educated playboy," said Marianne Berardi, senior fine arts expert for Heritage.

The painting had most recently been passed down through the descendants of Charles Rannells, a St. Louis lawyer and legislator who acquired it in the 1840s.

New Age author Ferguson dies at 70

BANNING, Calif. (AP)—Marilyn Ferguson, whose best-selling book "The Aquarian Conspiracy" helped establish the New Age movement by tying together its disparate threads, has died. She was 70.

Ferguson died Oct. 19 at her home in western Riverside County. She is believed to have died of a heart attack, her son, Eric, told the Los Angeles Times.

"The Aquarian Conspiracy," published in 1980, was the first comprehensive analysis of the various unconnected efforts—such as scientists investigating biofeedback, midwives running alternative birthing centers and a Christian evangelist promoting meditation - that would coalesce into the New Age movement.

She cast these activities as a cumulative force seeking to break away from mainstream Western attitudes toward medicine, psychology and spirituality.

"After a dark, violent age, the Piscean, we are entering a millennium of love and light—in the words of the popular song 'the Age of Aquarius,' the time of 'the mind's true liberation,'" Ferguson wrote in the book.

Fritjof Capra, the New Age figure and physicist who wrote the "Tao of Physics," said Ferguson was a vital figure among those striving together to create an alternative consciousness.

Stars, gizmos align for Election Night

NEW YORK (AP)—For television news organizations, Election Night is like the Super Bowl—the year's best chance to show off their talent and technological innovations.

A couple of folks sitting behind a desk reading numbers? How 1950s.

Tuesday will see holograms and virtual reality, a "magic wall" and a "launchpad," and two New York City landmarks—Rockefeller Center and Times Square - turned into TV studios.

NBC News will imprint a map of the United States on the Rockefeller Center skating rink, turning states blue or red as they are called for Democrat Barack Obama or Republican John McCain. Giant banners for each candidate will climb 16 stories up 30 Rockefeller Plaza, marking the progress to 270 electoral votes.

Three giant video screens put in place by ABC News will loom over Times Square, where Bill Weir will be stationed to get the reaction of people watching the vote.

"We wanted the scale and scope of the coverage to match the moment, to match the interest and enthusiasm that we have been seeing from the public," said David Chalian, ABC News political director.

New mother's boredom may be sign of a serious issue

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am 28 years old, married for four years and have an 8-month-old son. For years I knew I wanted children and that I wanted to be a stay-at-home mother for as long as possible. I am taking a year or two off from work as a teacher to stay home with my son.

My problem is, I find playing with my son tedious, boring and frustrating. I don't mind caring for his needs, such as cleaning and feeding, but the actual playtime—the part that is supposed to be fun, stimulating and so important to his emotional, physical and social growth—bores me out of my mind.

I spend each day waiting for my son to nap so I can read, go online or watch TV, and I count the hours until my husband gets home so I can hand him the baby. I am seriously concerned that something is wrong with me as a mother, especially because I have suffered from depression in the past. Is this a dirty little secret that many mothers keep?

NEW MOM IN LAS VEGAS

DEAR NEW MOM: No, it is not, and you are right to be concerned. For your sake as well as your son's, it is important that you discuss your feelings with your OB-GYN to make sure you are not suffering from postpartum depression, which is treatable.

You should also consider joining a playgroup, so you will have the company of other mothers. It will give you a healthier perspective than escaping by reading, watching TV or going online.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Have you heard of middle child syndrome? You know, when you are the middle child and your parents seem to spoil and love your older and younger siblings but not you? I'm a 16-year-old girl who has this problem.

I have an older brother and younger sister. My parents love and spoil them but not me. Please don't tell me it's my age or because I'm a girl, because this has been going on ever since I can remember.

MIDDLE CHILD IN HACKENSACK, N.J.

DEAR MIDDLE CHILD: Yes, I have heard of middle child syndrome. And there are cases where the oldest child—or the baby—is favored, but it does not happen in every family.

However, I do not think the phenomenon of parents playing favorites is as common as you would like to believe. Each child is loved for different reasons, but all are valued because every child is unique.

Because you feel you have been overlooked, perhaps it's time to turn your frustration into an effort to excel at something. That way, you will find recognition and validation from both your family and from sources outside it.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 12-year-old boy who is friends with a girl I'll call "Jenny." She is beautiful, and I want to ask her to the school dance, but there's a problem. My best friend, "Matthew," also likes her.

Truthfully, I think I have a better shot at getting her to go with me because I know she doesn't like Matthew. But if she goes to the dance with me, my friendship with Matthew will be wrecked. What do I do?

J.D. IN FLORIDA

DEAR J.D.: It's a school dance—why not go stag? That way you can ask anyone you want to dance, and if Jenny likes you better than Matthew, she may choose to spend more time with you than with him.

DEAR READERS: Today is Election Day—finally. I hope to be the last person to remind you to get out there and cast your ballots!

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

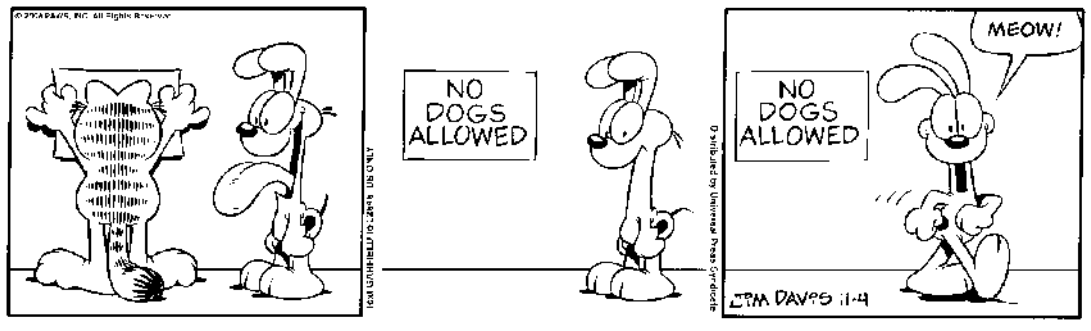
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
DAD TOLD ME TO GO OUTSIDE, SO I'M DIGGING A HOLE TO CHINA.
IF DAD'S GOING TO BE SUCH A GROUCH, I FIGURE I'LL JUST GO LIVE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PLANET.
YOU CAN COME TOO, IF YOU WANT. THERE'S ANOTHER SHOVEL IN THE GARAGE.
YOU DON'T THINK YOUR DAD WILL GET MAD ABOUT US DIGGING UP THE DRIVEWAY?
OH, YOU KNOW DAD. HE'LL GET MAD NO MATTER WHERE WE DIG.

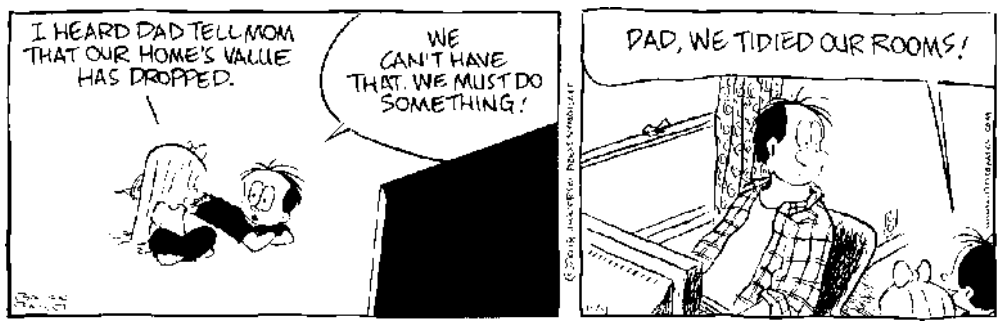
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



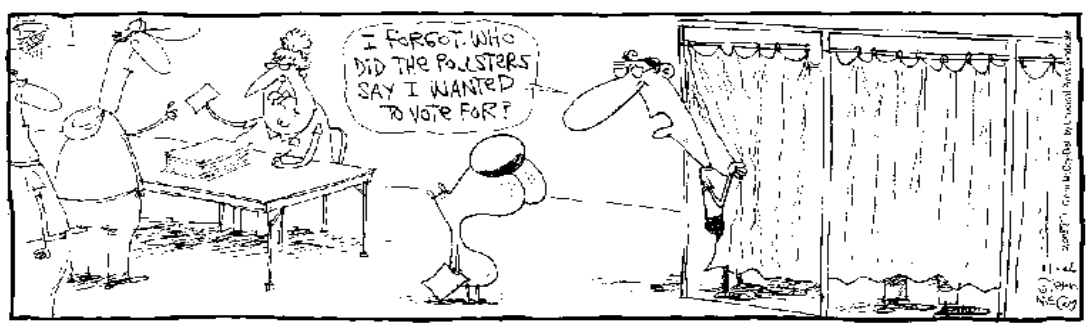
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

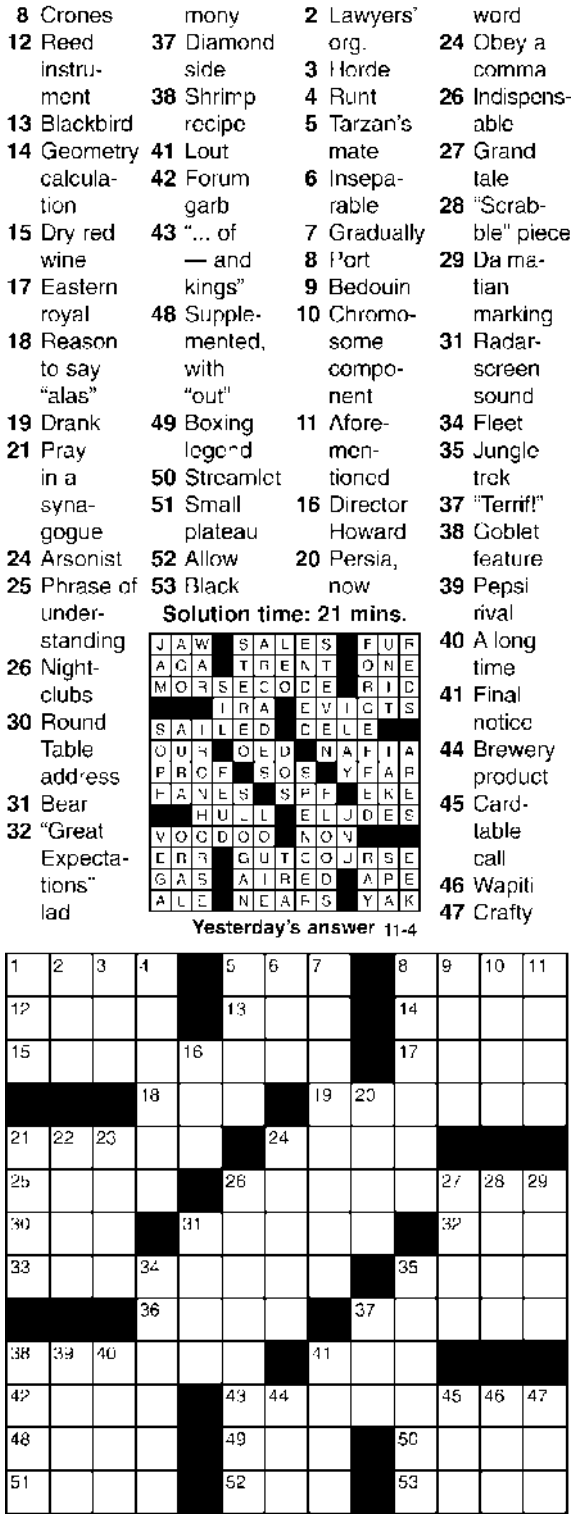
ACROSS
1 Moist
5 Occupation
8 Crones
12 Reed instrument
13 Blackbird
14 Geometry calculation
15 Dry red wine
17 Eastern royal
18 Reason to say "alas"
19 Drank
21 Pray in a synagogue
24 Arsonist
25 Phrase of understanding
26 Nightclubs
30 Round Table address
31 Bear
32 "Great Expectations" lad
33 Plotter
35 Missile shelter
36 Ceremony
37 Diamond side
38 Shrimp recipe
41 Lout
42 Forum garb
43 "... of — and kings"
48 Supplemented, with "out"
49 Boxing legend
50 Streamlet
51 Small plateau
52 Allow
53 Black

DOWN
1 "What's up, —?"
2 Lawyers' org.
3 Horde
4 Runt
5 Tarzan's mate
6 Inseparable
7 Gradually
8 Port
9 Bedouin
10 Chromosome component
11 Aforementioned
16 Director Howard
20 Persia, now
21 Platter
22 Largest continent
23 Action word
24 Obey a comma
26 Indispensable
27 Grand tale
28 "Scrabble" piece
29 Dalmatian marking
31 Radar-screen sound
34 Fleet
35 Jungle trek
37 "Terrific!"
38 Goblet feature
39 Pepsi rival
40 A long time
41 Final notice
44 Brewery product
45 Cardtable call
46 Wapiti
47 Crafty

Solution time: 21 mins.

J	A	W		S	A	L	E	S		F	U	R
A	G	A		T	R	E	N	T		O	N	E
M	O	R	S	E	C	O	D	E		R	I	D
			I	R	A		E	V	I	C	T	S
S	A	I	L	E	D		C	E	L	E		
O	U	R		O	E	D		N	A	I	A	
P	R	O	F		S	O	S		Y	F	A	R
H	A	N	E	S		S	P	F		E	K	E
			H	U	L		E	L	J	D	E	S
V	O	C	D	O	O		N	O	N			
E	R	R		G	U	T	C	O	J	R	S	E
G	A	S		A	I	R	E	D		A	P	E
A	L	E		N	E	A	F	S		Y	A	K

Yesterday's answer 11-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ or y.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sean "Diddy" Combs, 39; Matthew McConaughey, 39; Ralph Macchio, 48; Markie Post, 58

Happy Birthday: Put yourself on the line this year. Happiness does not come without work. Now is a time of initiation but do not go overboard. A chance to get back into something you always wanted to pursue will be possible. Stop waiting for things to drop in your lap. Your numbers are 12, 17, 20, 23, 31, 35, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You may get stuck doing all the work if you let someone take advantage of your experience, enthusiasm and quick response. Look out for your own interests and refuse to give too freely, even if you are asked. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): There may be a lot going on in your head but this isn't the time to let things fester. Discuss what's really bothering you and solutions will be found. Be firm but not obstinate. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Talk your way into a new group and you will experience a lifestyle change that is long overdue. You have just as much to offer as the next person so believe in yourself. A business trip will pay off. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You're a softy but, if you give in to someone, he or she will want even more from you. Offer your advice and guidance but don't do the work for others. Build a strong group of people around you not a bunch of hangers-on. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Temptation must be kept at arm's length. Question anyone who is too willing to sacrifice his or her position or reputation. Be strong. An indiscretion will cause personal problems with family. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Share your concerns with someone you trust and you'll come up with a solution to a family problem that has been keeping you awake nights. Honesty is the only way to clear these matters up so you can move on. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You are probably not seeing things clearly so, before you say something you may regret, busy yourself with hobbies, pastimes or unfinished business. Problems with loved ones will escalate. Ask an older, experienced relative to mediate. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Taking a serious position regarding something you believe in will help you hook up with like-minded people. Someone considering you for a particular position will recognize your compassionate nature. A change is upon you. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Be the one to take advantage, not the one being used to benefit others. Emotions will be difficult to control if money is an issue. If you or someone you are close to has gone over budget, find ways to raise extra cash. It could turn into permanent income. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You will be left dangling by someone trying to get you to pay for or join something that may not be the best for you. Saying no will be your only option. Don't commit to anything that isn't ironclad and to your advantage. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't be upset or angered by someone who is continually changing his or her mind. Show good faith by offering to help a good cause. A love interest will develop with someone who has a lot in common with you. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): By helping others you will position yourself for success. The choice you make now can alter your financial future for years to come. An unusual development will occur regarding a gift, something you find or an inheritance or settlement. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive—a humanitarian, a Good Samaritan and a loyal friend and lover. You aren't afraid to take an unusual route and question anyone who fears the unknown.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8			6		5			7
		1				5		
	4		1		2		9	
5		4				1		2
				3				
1		6				7		9
	7		9		8		4	
		2				6		
4			3		6			5

Difficulty Level ★★ 11/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	8	3	1	5	6	7	9	4
7	4	6	8	3	9	2	1	5
9	1	5	4	7	2	8	3	6
5	9	7	2	8	4	1	6	3
1	6	2	3	9	7	5	4	8
4	3	8	5	6	1	9	7	2
6	2	1	9	4	8	3	5	7
8	5	4	7	1	3	6	2	9
3	7	9	6	2	5	4	8	1

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

U.S. ELECTION DAY — Solution: 6 letters

Y	T	S	E	U	S	S	I	N	E	D	I	B	S	R
K	A	N	A	I	R	A	T	R	E	B	I	L	E	I
K	N	D	U	E	S	R	O	D	N	E	P	P	N	N
C	S	A	S	O	P	A	L	I	N	V	R	D	A	A
A	S	W	R	E	C	H	T	O	L	E	E	G	T	U
R	N	R	A	F	U	O	T	A	S	P	S	I	O	G
A	A	S	J	L	O	T	C	E	E	E	I	L	R	U
B	C	F	O	R	U	I	N	N	C	S	D	I	N	R
A	I	L	H	O	T	T	D	I	E	V	E	E	O	A
L	L	U	N	I	A	E	O	A	I	G	N	R	B	T
L	B	R	L	T	N	H	T	C	C	Y	T	R	A	I
O	U	O	I	T	C	S	E	C	H	T	T	A	M	O
I	P	V	R	E	B	M	E	M	U	R	E	D	A	N
D	E	M	O	C	R	A	T	I	C	A	I	D	E	M
S	R	O	N	R	F	V	O	G	K	P	O	I	I	S

©2008 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com 11/4

Ballot, Barack, Barr, Biden, Choices, Chuck, Count, Darrell, Democratic, Endorse, Frank, Governor, Green, Inauguration, Independent, Issues, John, Laws, Libertarian, Matt, McCain, Media, Member, Nader, Obama, Palin, Party, Politics, Polls, President, Representatives, Republicans, Root, Rules, Sarah, Seals, Senator, Tuesday, Turnout, Vice

Yesterday's Answer: Banjos

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - COMMERCIAL

2 Commercial Space for Rent. One 2000 sq.ft. & One 1000 sq.ft. Garapan area across Treasure Island Game Club. Contact Emil De Belen @ 483-3645/233-5100

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, FF, AC, 24-hr pwr./water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. MIHA applicants accepted. Right behind NMC campus. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water $210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

For Rent-New apartment/Studio type $200/mo. Brand new. Fully furnished. Finasisu (across NMC). Please call Danny Siu @ 287-2387

FOR SALE/RENT

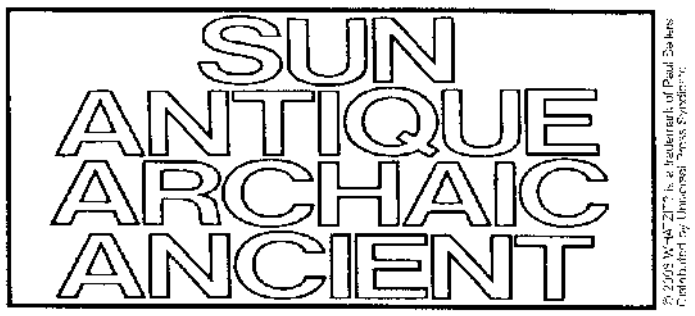
Kinghua Auto Parts Center, Koblerville (next to Shell Station across Phil. Eagle Autoshop) For any info-pls. call Danny Siu @ 287-2387

WHATZIT Solution:
Nothing new under the sun

NEED PROPERTIES
We are looking for all kinds of properties, vacant property, commercial building, house, or apartment for long term lease or for sale. Interested owners, you may visit Yuta Office beside Bank of Guam in San Antonio.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in this section

Canon Authorized Dealer | ibss | Laserfiche Authorized Reseller

Island Business System & Supplies
A Division of Jones & Guerrero Co., Inc.

Is currently seeking a responsible and reliable individual to work as

ACCOUNTANT
(IBSS Saipan – 1 position opening)

QUALIFICATIONS: Must be Accounting Graduate with at least **(4)** years experience in Financial Statement Preparation and Analysis of Accounts, **Proficient in MS Excel & MS Word. Good command of English both oral & written** and with valid CNMI Drivers License.

This position offers challenging and rewarding opportunities with excellent fringe benefits and salary.

Interested individuals may apply in person at the IBSS office, Beach road, Chalan Kanoa Saipan, Monday – Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. All applications must be accompanied with a current **POLICE CLEARANCE.**

"EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER"

FEDERAL LAW requires presentation of proof of identity and eligibility to work in the U.S. We comply with this law on a nondiscriminatory basis

Make it a daily habit!
www.saipantribune.com

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper

Saipan Trib
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2007
Guard files sex harassment suit vs principal
2 hurt in Puerto Rico vehicular crash. PAC
There is still hope for nonimm
joins Micronesi
OPINION METER

235- NEWS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Titans still perfect, beat Green Bay in OT

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—Rob Bironas got a second chance at redemption in overtime Sunday, kicking a 41-yard field goal with 9:36 to go that kept the Tennessee Titans the NFL's last unbeaten team with a 19-16 victory over the Green Bay Packers.

Bironas had a chance to win in regulation but banged a 47-yarder off the upright, prompting the All-Pro to yank his facemask down in anger at himself.

But the Titans (8-0) won the toss and drove 55 yards in 10 plays to give Bironas another chance, helping Tennessee match a franchise record with its 11th straight regular-season victory.

Tennessee Titans kicker Rob Bironas kicks a 41-yard field goal as Craig Hentrich (15) holds to beat the Green Bay Packers 19-16 in overtime in an NFL football game in Nashville, Tenn., Sunday, Nov. 2, 2008.

AP

Bengals 21, Jaguars 19

At Cincinnati, Ryan Fitzpatrick threw a pair of touchdown passes to Chad Ocho Cinco, who celebrated the second one by giving the head coach a kiss, and the Bengals stopped a late 2-point conversion try to preserve their first victory.

At 1-8, the Bengals are no longer on pace to be historically bad. Now merely dreadful, they were too much for the stunned Jaguars (3-5), who fell behind 21-3 before making it close.

Jets 26, Bills 17

At Orchard Park, New York, Abram Elam, starting in place of injured safety Eric Smith, returned an interception thrown by Trent Edwards 92 yards for a touchdown, sparking New York's victory over the bumbling Buffalo.

The Jets (5-3) have won four of five and have caught the Bills in the division standings. Buffalo (5-3) has lost three of four and lost all the momentum it had generated following a 4-0 start.

Bears 27, Lions 23

At Chicago, Rex Grossman came off the bench to replace injured quarterback Kyle Orton and scored the go-ahead touchdown with 5:36 left, helping Chicago rally from a 10-point deficit for a victory over the winless Detroit.

Matt Forte had 126 yards rushing for the Bears (5-3), who lost Orton to a right ankle injury and safety Mike Brown to a calf problem late in the first half. They didn't lose the game, though.

Bucs 30, Chiefs 27, OT

At Kansas City, Missouri, Jeff Garcia's 24-yard touchdown pass and 2-point conversion toss tied it with 19 seconds left, and Matt Bryant's 33-yard field goal in overtime gave Tampa Bay a win after they trailed by 21.

The Chiefs (1-7) never touched the ball in overtime as Garcia hit Michael Clayton for 29 yards on the first play and smartly moved Tampa Bay (6-3) down the field.

Vikings 28, Texans 21

At Minneapolis, the Minnesota Vikings forced three turnovers, got three touchdown passes from Gus Frerotte and shut down Houston's Andre Johnson.

Minnesota (4-4) returned from the bye week fully recharged. Madieu Williams intercepted Sage Rosenfels in the end zone in the third quarter, and Antoine Winfield picked off Matt Schaub at the Vikings 5 before Houston's starting quarterback was sidelined at halftime by an injury to his left knee.

Cardinals 34, Rams 13

At St. Louis, Kurt Warner and the Cardinals used a 24-point second quarter to win another one in their former home city.

The Cardinals have won four in a row in St. Louis, their home from 1960-87, and four straight over the Rams overall.

Arizona (5-3) was in total command after scoring 10 points on turnovers and adding a pair of long scoring plays on touchdowns by Tim Hightower and Jerheme Urban. Warner had his 45th 300-yard passing game, throwing for two touchdowns to beat the team he led to two Super Bowls from 1999-2001.

Ravens 37, Browns 27

At Cleveland, Matt Stover booted three field goals—the last with 5:36 left—and linebacker Terrell Suggs returned an interception 42 yards for a touchdown to end Cleveland's last threat with 2:43 remaining as Baltimore rallied for a win.

Stover, who ranks fifth in league scoring history, made field goals of 41, 32 and 22 yards for the Ravens (5-3), who trailed 27-13 in the third quarter before storming back by scoring 24 unanswered points to beat the Browns (3-5) for the second time this season.

Giants 35, Cowboys 14

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Eli Manning threw three touchdown passes, Brandon Jacobs rushed for 117 yards and a score and the New York Giants defense took advantage of injured quarterback Tony Room's absence to intercept three passes and down Dallas.

The win was the fifth straight at home for the Giants (7-1) and it allowed the Super Bowl champions to open a three-game lead over the defending NFC East champion Cowboys (5-4) in the division.

Dolphins 26, Broncos 17

At Denver, the Miami Dolphins bottled up Denver's ground game and intercepted Jay Cutler three times in a win over the befuddled Broncos.

Cornerback Will Allen returned the second of Cutler's mistakes 32 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter.

With Champ Bailey sidelined by a torn groin, Chad Pennington repeatedly picked on his replacement, Karl Paymah, who picked off one pass but otherwise was victimized all afternoon by Greg Camarillo, whose 11 receptions for 111 yards were season highs.

Falcons 24, Raiders 0

At Oakland, California, Matt Ryan threw a pair of first-half touchdown passes to Michael Jenkins and Atlanta held Oakland to negative yards and no first downs in the first half and their lowest yards total in 47 years.

In a six-year stretch of losing, embarrassment and new lows in Oakland, Al Davis' once-proud franchise might have reached a new nadir this week in front of a half-filled stadium of fans who began booing the Raiders (2-6) just minutes in.

Eagles 26, Seahawks 7

At Seattle, Donovan McNabb rebounded from early problems to complete 28 of 43 passes for 349 yards and two touchdowns, one to tackle Todd Herremans, and rally Philadelphia past Seattle.

Brent Celek, playing because L.J. Smith was out with a concussion, set an Eagles record for yards receiving by a tight end in a regular-season game with 131 on six receptions.

Colts 18, Patriots 15

At Indianapolis, Adam Vinatieri, kicked a 52-yarder with 8:05 left to lead Indianapolis past his former team New England.

Vinatieri was the Patriots' career scoring leader who booted winning field goals in two of their Super Bowl victories before he was let go as a free agent.

New England tight end David Thomas had every bit as much to do with the outcome as Vinatieri.

With the Patriots (5-3) facing third-and-2 at the Colts 32 with 4:45 left, BenJarvus Green-Ellis ran for 1 yard, and Thomas drew an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty after the play.

Amaro to replace Gillick as Phillies GM

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Ruben Amaro Jr. will replace Pat Gillick as general manager of the World Series champion Philadelphia Phillies on Monday.

Amaro just completed his 10th season as assistant GM and was considered the front-runner for the job after Gillick said last year this would be his last season.

The Phillies will introduce Amaro at a news conference Monday, just five days after the team beat the Tampa Bay Rays to capture the second championship in franchise history.

Amaro got the nod over Mike Arbuckle, who spent the last 15 years with the Phillies. Arbuckle was the director of scouting for his first seven seasons in Philadelphia, and became an assistant GM in October 2001.

Amaro, 43, joined the Phillies immediately after his playing career ended in 1998. He worked under former GM Ed Wade for seven seasons and the last three with Gillick.

Westbrook sparks Thunder past T'wolves

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—It didn't take long for Russell Westbrook to show the defensive prowess that convinced the Oklahoma City Thunder to make him their first-round draft pick.

Westbrook sparked a comeback with back-to-back steals on the defensive end and then scored the go-ahead basket for the last of his 14 points as the Thunder beat the Minnesota Timberwolves 88-85 Sunday night for their first victory in their new home.

Westbrook, who earlier sparked a 13-0 run that pulled the Thunder out of a third-quarter deficit, hit the decisive basket with a driving layup that made it 86-85 with 2:19 to play and Oklahoma City stopped Minnesota on its next six possessions to hang on for the win.

''We're going to have to be scrappy to win games,'' said Westbrook, the No. 4 overall pick in this year's draft and the first building block in the franchise's defensive overhaul.

Westbrook was hardly the flashy pick so early in the draft, overshadowed by Memphis' Derrick Rose and Kansas State's Michael Beasley—the first two players taken. Even former teammate Kevin Love , who plays for Minnesota, got more headlines than Westbrook in their time at UCLA.

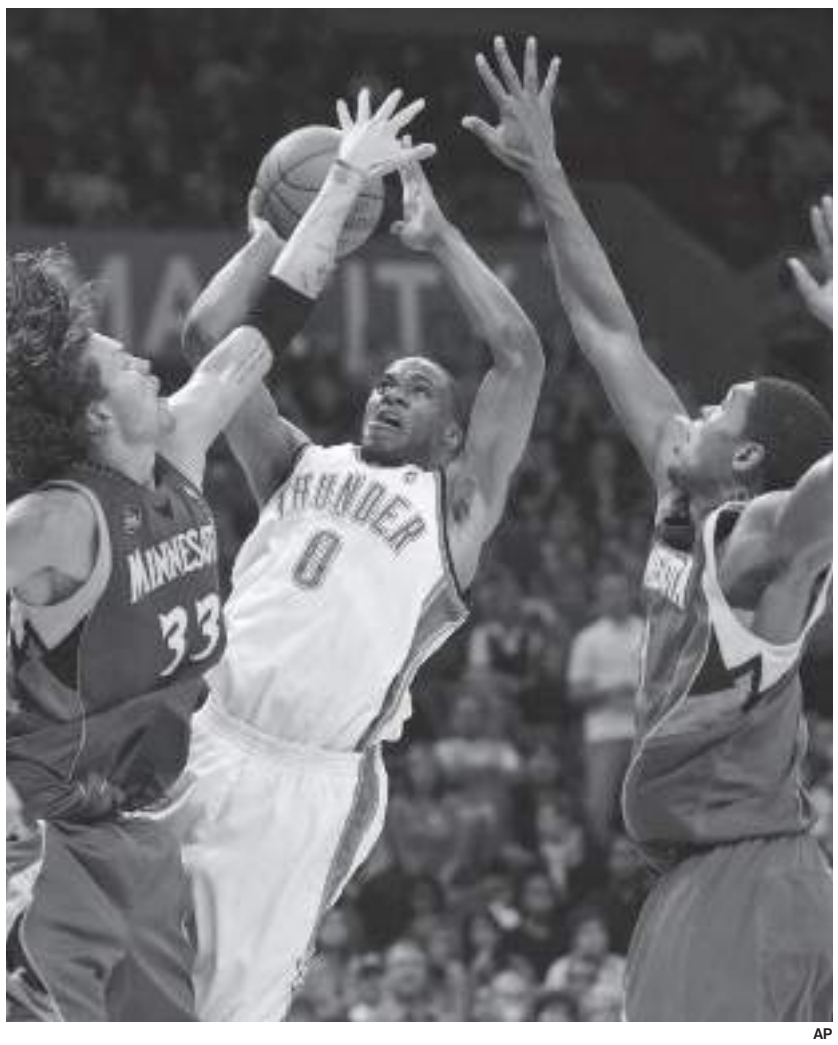
But Westbrook might be just what the Thunder need to improve on a defense that gave up the fourth-most points in the NBA last season as the Seattle SuperSonics. After giving up 106.3 points last season, none of Oklahoma City's first three opponents have even hit triple digits.

The improvement was clear down the stretch, as Minnesota scored only two points in the final 5 minutes—on Al Jefferson 's putback of Randy Foye 's missed 3-pointer that gave the Timberwolves an 85-84 lead with 2:43 left.

Westbrook answered with his layup at the other end, and Ryan Gomes , Jefferson and Foye all missed chances to give the Timberwolves the lead before Nick Collison 's left-handed hook shot with 16.4 seconds left made it a three-point game.

After a pair of missed free throws by Jeff Green gave Minnesota one last chance, Gomes missed a potential tying 3-pointer from the left side to close the game. Officials huddled by a courtside monitor to see if there was a foul before the final buzzer, and cheerleaders ran onto the court to start the celebration anyway.

It turned out the Thunder's first win with their new identity was safe after all.



AP

Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) shoots between Minnesota Timberwolves guard Mike Miller (33) and forward Ryan Gomes (8) during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Sunday, Nov. 2, 2008.

''Any win feels good, honestly,'' Oklahoma City coach P.J. Carlesimo said. ''It's very good to get a win in this building. It's very good to get a win the way we got it.''

Kevin Durant led the Thunder with 18 points despite a 7-for-21 shooting night. Green added 13 points, Chris Wilcox scored 12 off the bench and Collison had 10 points and 10 rebounds for his first double-double.

Minnesota's Al Jefferson had 24 points and 13 rebounds for his third straight double-double to start the season, but the Thunder clamped down late on him. Craig Smith added 13 points, Gomes scored 12 and Mike Miller had 10.

''It's a game we're supposed to have won,'' Jefferson said. ''We gave up 25 points second-chance. That's why it hurts so bad. ... No disrespect to the Thunder, but it was just a game we had in the bag and we should have won.''

The Thunder got off to slow starts in each of the first three quarters, going 3-for-13 from the field to open the game and then giving up a 9-0 run to start the second quarter and a 7-0 spurt right after halftime.

Each time, Oklahoma City came back—and Westbrook finally got his team over the top.

He had steals on back-to-back possessions late in the third quarter, turning the first into a three-point play that sparked a 13-0 run for the Thunder. He also finished off the surge with a driving finger roll for a 76-73 Oklahoma City lead early in the fourth quarter.

With Westbrook playing so well, Carlesimo left him in down the stretch alongside fellow point guard Earl Watson instead of going with his initial plan to go with the veteran Wilcox and a bigger lineup.

''I just thought we needed Earl to settle us down I think we did not want to take Russell out of the game,'' Carlesimo said. ''I was kind of boxed in.''

It turned out to be exactly what the Thunder needed.

Bucks 94, Knicks 86

At New York, Richard Jefferson and Ramon Sessions each scored 18 points, and Milwaukee used a strong defensive effort to shake off Michael Redd's injury and beat New York.

Redd added 16 points, making all three 3-point attempts, before leaving with a sprained right ankle with Milwaukee leading by 16 late in the third quarter. Charlie Villanueva also scored 16, while Andrew Bogut had 13 points and 11 rebounds.

Quentin Richardson had 28 points and nine rebounds for the Knicks, who have shot under 40 percent in their past two games, making Mike D'Antoni's offensive system look awful. With Stephon Marbury again inactive, they went scoreless for more than 3 1/2 minutes to start the third quarter and never recovered. They clanged jumpers, botched layups and finished at 37 percent for the game.

Marbury inactive again, Walsh plans discussion

NEW YORK (AP)—Stephon Marbury was inactive again Sunday, and Knicks president Donnie Walsh plans to speak with coach Mike D'Antoni and his point guard this week in hopes of clearing up an uncomfortable roster situation.

Marbury is so far out of the plans that D'Antoni tabbed Jerome James instead of Marbury to replace the injured Eddy Curry on the active list against Milwaukee, even though the 7-foot-1, 285-pound James played in just two games last season and would seem a horrible fit for an uptempo system.

Marbury, on the other hand, might be New York's most talented player. Yet D'Antoni doesn't want to play him sporadically, preferring to give limited backcourt minutes to players who are part of the Knicks' future.

Marbury isn't. He is in the final year of a contract that will pay him more than $21 million this season, and the Knicks surely won't re-sign him.

That salary, plus his history of clashing with coaches, makes Marbury difficult to trade. He's already made it clear he won't take a buyout for less than his full salary, so Walsh acknowledged there "aren't a lot of options out there," for getting rid of Marbury.

So with two days off coming up, Walsh will talk to Marbury and D'Antoni and see how to handle the situation, which has overshadowed everything else this season for the Knicks.

"I haven't talked it out with anybody. I want to talk to Mike, see where this is going to go because I'm unclear, I think like everybody is," Walsh said.

Marbury was active but didn't play Wednesday in the season opener, with some fans chanting "We want Steph!" in the second half of a victory over Miami.

D'Antoni then placed Marbury on the inactive list Friday before a loss at Philadelphia, feeling that he wouldn't have enough minutes for a player of Marbury's stature.

"I just don't think he's one of those guys that you can play with," D'Antoni said. "'Oh get in for a sec, oh get out, oh get in.' I think that's ... I don't want to use the word disrespectful because it's a privilege to play in the league, but at the same time I feel for him."

Marbury hasn't caused any trouble yet, saying he understands D'Antoni's decisions. That could change at any minute, since Marbury feuded with both Larry Brown and Isiah Thomas, his past two coaches.

Walsh said he couldn't envision a scenario where Marbury would be with the Knicks and inactive the rest of the season. He doesn't like buyouts, and said he's nowhere near asking the point guard to accept less money so he could be cut.

So if Marbury refuses to budge on the money, he could be here a while—maybe even with an occasional appearance on the court.

"He does make a lot of money and you never know what happens," D'Antoni said. "Obviously we went into a different direction but at the same time we owe him money and if an injury happens I wouldn't hesitate putting him back in. I wouldn't even hesitate putting him back in as a starter, but if an injury happened at a certain spot. But until that happens, then I think common sense is just that he's inactive right now."

Curry, who isn't part of D'Antoni's rotation anyway, had his right knee drained before the opener and has been complaining of soreness.

Palmer wins with a birdie on the last hole

PALM COAST, Fla. (AP)—Ryan Palmer made a 10-foot birdie on the 18th hole Sunday to break out of a six-way tie for the lead and win the Ginn sur Mer Classic, earning a two-year exemption on the PGA Tour.

Palmer, who was at No. 143 on the money list with two tournaments remaining, had to call a penalty on himself and made bogey on the 10th hole, then took double bogey on the next hole with a tee shot into the water.

But he rebounded with a birdie he desperately needed on the final hole at Ginn Ocean Hammock Resort for his second career victory.

Michael Letzig, the 54-hole leader, needed a birdie on the par-5 18th to force a playoff. But his wedge spun 35 feet down the slope and he had to settle for par and a 73 to finish one shot behind.

Also tying for second were George McNeill, Nicholas Thompson, Ken Duke and Vaughn Taylor, who was at No. 129 on the money list and earned enough to secure his card for next year.

The final tournament next week is at Disney, and the top 125 keep full privileges for 2009.

The fourth round twice was suspended because of bad weather, which didn't help anyone break out of the pack. Seven players had at least a share of the lead at one point, and there was a six-way tie during the first stoppage in play.

Palmer appeared to have control with a two-shot lead until he reached the 10th green. He noticed his ball move slightly after he addressed his 30-foot birdie attempt, and after calling a rules official, assessed himself a one-shot penalty and made bogey.

He pulled his next tee shot into the water for double bogey to fall out of the lead, but rejoined the back with an up-and-down from the bunker on the par-5 13th. Palmer made pars the rest of the way, including a nervy two-putt from 40 feet on the 17th, then laid up on the closing hole and stuffed his wedge into 10 feet for the winning putt.

Palmer finished at 7-under 281 and earned $828,000. It was the fifth time in six events during the Fall Series that a player outside the top 125 on the money list won a tournament. The exception was Zach Johnson, who was at No. 125 when he won in Texas.

As crowded as it was at the top, it could have been worse.

John Huston, at No. 168 on the money list, hit his tee shot into the water on the 16th and made bogey. Mark Wilson took two shots to get out of a greenside bunker on the 16th and made double bogey.

Robert Allenby, the runner-up at Turning Stone by one shot, had a chance to take the lead on the par-5 18th until he hit his wedge long and into a back bunker. He blasted out 40 feet long and wound up with a bogey.

Allenby and Huston were in the group at 5-under 283. That group included Brian Gay, who was at No. 33 on the money list and earned enough to move into the top 30, giving him a chance to earn his first trip to the Masters if he stays there after Disney.

MBA

From Page 28

while the hapless Geckos dove for it, but was a step or two late for a return.

MBA's semis foe will be Mt. Carmel School, which recorded a 25-20, 26-24, victory over Calvary Christian Academy.

MCS was seeded third in the tournament after finishing the regular season with a 7-5 record.

Assistant coach Rommel Calcena called the shots for the Knights in absence of head coach Joe Taijeron.

The Knights are composed of Jake Igitol, Peter Matagolai, Min Joo Jung, Michael Villagomez, Benjamin Babauta, Geza Baka, Rico Camacho, Nelle Calvo, Chandelle Mendoza, Nicole Lebria, Mai Nakajima, Michelle Burer, and Maria Balajadia.

The MBA-MCS semis tiff will be played on Thursday.

In the other quarterfinals match yesterday, SDA downed SIS Blue, 25-23, 25-16.

Kono Remelik and Kae Yoshida manned the net for SDA and were successful most of the time to oust Geckos Blue.

Other members of the San Antonio-based squad are Liah Wabol, Jacinia Richards, Yuko Takayama, Joey Lacorte, Michi Yoshida, Steve Park, Won Ho Lee, and Ruby Kim. Nicole French is SDA's coach.

SDA was ranked fifth in the playoffs and its win over SIS was sort of an upset, as the Geckos finished fourth in the regular season.

SDA will be paired with defending champion and No. 1 seed Grace Christian Academy in the semifinals. Winners of Thursday's semis games will square off for the varsity title on Friday.

CENTURY

From Page 28

Distributor/NRG before the break, but the former could not pick up where it left off when it faced the much taller crew of Century.

Century used its height and heft to outclass the hot-shooting MIGS with frontliners Larry Palero and Jawn Joyner combining for 46 points.

Palero had 12 rebounds to go with his 31 points, his biggest so far in the league. Joyner also recorded a double-double, firing 15 markers and collaring 14 boards, as he and Palero dominated the paint.

The backcourt tandem of Wowee Abuel and Bing Marasigan also stood their ground against the 1-2 punch of Sonny Lerio and Bonbon Cadagat.

Abuel finished with 21 points, while Marasigan nailed 11, seven in the crucial fourth period.

Cadagat and Lerio, who average close to 30 points in their first four wins, was held to 18 and nine markers, respectively, as they struggled with their outside shots, especially in the fourth quarter.

Cadagat had his lowest output in five games, while Lerio recorded his first single-digit production, as MIGS's dynamic duo was outscored by Abuel and Marasigan.

The cat-quick Cadagat was scoreless in the first quarter, fired seven in the second and started to hit from outside in the third period, connecting on two triples. His eight points and Kae Bernardo's nine markers put MIGS in the lead, 77-70, at the end of the third period

But Century worked its way back into the game in the fourth canto with Joyner and Palero doing damage inside and Abuel and Marasigan taking over outside.

Cadagat failed to deliver in the crucial fourth period, as he was held to only a field goal and a free throw, while Lerio made only a triple. Bernardo, who completes MIGS's lethal trio, finished with 22 markers after the third quarter, but scored only four in the fourth due to foul trouble.

In the second game, Olivos had a huge second half to pull off a come-from-behind win over the stunned Diamond Auto Care.

Diamond had a sparkling first half leading by as much as 15 points in the second period, 46-31, when its luster started to fade in the third period.

Olivos outshone the Diamond in the third canto, 28-13, to move to within two, 64-66, entering the fourth period.

A 13-1 scoring spree in the first three minutes of the fourth canto anchored by Edmark Mendoza and Ivan De Vero reversed the two teams' fortunes with Olivos now in front, 80-67, with less than six minutes remaining in the game.

Elmer Esdrelon and Darwin Barbo had a run of their own, outscoring Olivos, 11-2, to keep Diamond afloat, 78-82, going into last three minutes of the match.

But crucial baskets from De Vero and Mendoza and several defensive stops and assists from Glen Mercurio helped Olivos preserve the win.

Mendoza put the icing on the cake with his nonchalant 3-point shot taken near the officials table on the right side of Olivos' court hitting the board first before going in into the basket as time expired.

De Vero finished with a game-high 34 points, 20 in the second half, while Mendoza drilled 19 of his 22 markers in the last 20 minutes of the game to give Olivos its first win in four matches.

Diamond Care, which won its two games, did not know what hit the team in the second half as it had no player scoring more than two field goals in that period.

First Game

Century 98 – L. Palero 31, Abuel 21, Joyner 15, Marasigan 11, Gapor 9, Pagarao 6, Vinas 3.

MIGS 94 – Bernardo 26, Cadagat 18, Basila 14, Pantaleon 12, Lerio 9, Demapan 2, Doronilla 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-19, 49-44, 77-70, 98-94.

Second Game

Olivos/Reliance 93 – De Vero 34, Mendoza 22, Mercurio 13, Montano 9, Casabuena 7, Mendiola 4, Umali 3, Olivos 2, Mateo 1.

Diamond 85 – Ranola 17, D. Barbo 15, Guiab 12, Esdrelon 12, Tamondong 6, Delos Reyes 5, Fernandez 3, Cosino 2, G. Barbo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-all, 53-36, 64-66, 93-85.

JEREMIAH

From Page 28

and Amor Casabuena chipped in 10 apiece.

Kae Bernardo and White Capalad kept Ezekiel afloat, hitting 12 and 10 markers, respectively, in the first half.

Bernardo continued to lead Ezekiel in the first half adding 17 points, but he had only Ernie Moises supporting him with the latter contributing 12. Actually, only Bernardo and Moises scored for Ezekiel in the second half.

Jeremiah drew contributions from five players with Casabuena picking up where he left off, tallying 10 points in the second half.

The biggest lift came from Wowee Abuel who exploded for 21 points in the second half after a sluggish first half. Abuel was held to five points in the first 20 minutes of the game.

Glenn Mercurio also stepped up chipping in eight of his 11 markers in the second half. Matt Buenabajo and Garcia scored Jeremiah's three other points in the second half.

Abuel top-scored for Jeremiah with 26 points.

Bernardo led all scorers with 29 markers, while Moises contributed 27, but these were not enough to prevent Ezekiel from dropping to a 0-3 start.

Ezekiel lost its first two games against Isaiah and is hoping to snap its losing skid this weekend when it faces the undefeated Daniel (2-0).

Jeremiah 82 – Abuel 26, Casabuena 20, Garcia 11, Mercurio 11, Olivos 11, Buenabajo 2, Mc Askell 2, Lazaga 1.

Ezekiel 78 – Bernardo 29, Moises 27, Capalad 10, Perez 5, Yoshimoto 3, Galvan 2, Topacio 2.

Scoring by halves: 40-36, 82-78.

JUST

From Page 28

morial Day Massacre ... raising the possibility the Lakers might be haunted forever ... before Riley's cold rage drove them to a Game 2 victory in Boston Garden, the point at which Lakers history pivoted, going from tragic to, uh, dynastic and/or comic.

"We learned a valuable lesson," Johnson said later. "Only the strong survive, and that's something we didn't know until then.

"Talent just don't get it. We realized it's not all about talent and that's the first time the Lakers ever encountered that, someone who was stronger-minded.

"So we said, `OK, we got to get stronger.' "

There's another similarity. That was the Lakers' best team, with Kareem Abdul-Jabbar averaging 22 points at age 38 and Johnson, Worthy, Rambis, Byron Scott, Michael Cooper, Bob McAdoo, Jamaal Wilkes and Mitch Kupchak.

This is the Lakers' biggest, deepest, most talented team since, with a chance to be their best ever.

Last season's team, which was more Pau Gasol's than Andrew Bynum's, finished No. 1 in offense and No. 19 in defense.

This season's team with Bynum and Gasol should be in the top five in both.

Three games into the season is a tad early to say anyone is anything, but here's what we know:

1) The Lakers are really good, and 2) it doesn't matter how good they are, only how well they do.

If it was no surprise a 7-foot prodigy would help, more things are going right than anyone imagined.

■ With no established small forward, Phil Jackson surprised everyone by plugging Vladimir Radmanovic, the best shooter, back in.

In their first two games, Radmanovic played 42 minutes, took a total of eight shots—and made four three-pointers.

Jackson used to call Radmanovic "my favorite Martian," but when you roll over everyone, you don't care what planet he's from, you just call it "diversity."

■ Lamar Odom, in a funk with his contract extension request turned down and his future here only too clear, is now looking like the Kobe Bryant of the Second Unit—"the queen on the chessboard," Clippers Coach Mike Dunleavy called him—kicking one of the league's best benches to another level.

■ Trevor Ariza is making three-pointers. If that continues, this league is in real trouble.

There's one more similarity: As in the `80s, the Celtics are no less focused on the Lakers than the Lakers are on them.

You think the Celtics didn't notice that last spring's favorites, whom they hammered, are favored again?

Of course, the great Bob Ryan of the Boston Globe explains it's because of the return of Bynum, whom, he wrote, "was quietly inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in a private ceremony last September."

It's exactly like old times, press corps vs. press corps!

Bob and I are old friends, having started covering the NBA in the same season (which I prefer not to specify), so this is like a golden oldie.

I remember the 1973 Eastern finals, when John Havlicek, playing left-handed after separating his right shoulder, led a dramatic rally from a 3-1 deficit against the Knicks to force Game 7 in Boston Garden and Bob wrote that although nothing was certain, it might be OK to whistle "California, Here We Come."

The Knicks then upended the Celtics to advance to the Finals against the Lakers, and Knicks writers went by Bob as he wrote, whistling "California, Here We Come."

Now to see if it's deja vu all over and everyone here and in Boston gets their wish one more time.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	3	0	1.000	–
Boston	2	1	.667	1
New Jersey	1	1	.500	1 1/2
New York	1	2	.333	2
Philadelphia	1	2	.333	2

Southeast Division

Atlanta	2	0	1.000	–
Charlotte	1	1	.500	1
Miaml	1	2	.333	1 1/2
Orlando	1	2	.333	1 1/2
Washington	0	2	.000	2

Central Division

Detroit	2	0	1.000	–
Chicago	2	1	.667	1/2
Milwaukee	2	.500	1	
Indiana	1	1	.500	1
Cleveland	1	2	.333	1 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Houston	3	0	1.000	–
New Orleans	3	0	1.000	–
Dallas	1	1	.500	1 1/2
Memphis	1	2	.333	2
San Antonio	0	2	.000	2 1/2

Northwest Division

Utah	2	0	1.000	–
Denver	1	2	.333	1 1/2
Minnesota	1	2	.333	1 1/2
Oklahoma City	1	2	.333	1 1/2
Portland	1	2	.333	1 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	3	0	1.000	–
Phoenix	2	1	.667	1
Golden State	1	2	.333	2
L.A. Clippers	0	3	.000	3
Sacramento	0	3	.000	3

Yesterday's Games

Milwaukee 94, New York 86
Oklahoma City 88, Minnesota 85

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	5	3	0	.625	168	150
N.Y. Jets	5	3	0	.625	208	187
Buffalo	5	3	0	.625	182	169
Miami	4	4	0	.500	171	163

South

Tennessee	8	0	0	1.000	199	103
Indianapolis	4	4	0	.500	167	177
Jacksonville	3	5	0	.375	160	172
Houston	3	5	0	.375	196	213

North

Pittsburgh	5	2	0	.714	155	110
Baltimore	5	3	0	.625	171	137
Cleveland	3	5	0	.375	142	160
Cincinnati	1	8	0	.111	125	236

West

Denver	4	4	0	.500	190	221
San Diego	3	5	0	.375	224	199
Oakland	2	6	0	.250	107	201
Kansas City	1	7	0	.125	126	223

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

N.Y. Giants	7	1	0	.875	226	129
Washington	6	2	0	.750	165	145
Philadelphia	5	3	0	.625	220	144
Dallas	5	4	0	.556	216	219

South

Carolina	6	2	0	.750	174	127
Tampa Bay	6	3	0	.667	200	147
Atlanta	5	3	0	.625	177	154
New Orleans	4	4	0	.500	216	195

North

Chicago	5	3	0	.625	223	173
Green Bay	4	4	0	.500	210	178
Minnesota	4	4	0	.500	182	188
Detroit	0	8	0	.000	137	239

West

Arizona	5	3	0	.625	234	184
Seattle	2	6	0	.250	151	210
San Francisco	2	6	0	.250	171	230
St. Louis	2	6	0	.250	125	235

Yesterday's Games

Chicago 27, Detroit 23
Minnesota 28, Houston 21
Tennessee 19, Green Bay 16, OT
N.Y. Jets 26, Buffalo 17
Arizona 34, St. Louis 13
Baltimore 37, Cleveland 27
Tampa Bay 30, Kansas City 27, OT
Cincinnati 21, Jacksonville 19
Miami 26, Denver 17
N.Y. Giants 35, Dallas 14
Atlanta 24, Oakland 0
Philadelphia 26, Seattle 7
Indianapolis 18, New England 15

GINN SUR MER CLASSIC SCORES

PALM COAST, Florida (AP)–Final scores Sunday in the $4.6 million PGA Tour's Ginn sur Mer Classic on the 7,663-yard, par-72 Conservatory Course at Ginn Hammock Beach Resort:

FINAL ROUND

Ryan Palmer	67-71-72-71	281
George McNeill	71-71-71-69	282
Nicholas Thompson	71-70-72-69	282
Vaughn Taylor	9-74-69-70	282
Ken Duke	70-69-72-71	282
Michael Letzig	65-74-70-73	282
Troy Matteson	71-74-70-68	283
Brian Gay	72-70-72-69	283
Tom Scherrer	68-76-70-69	283
Robert Allenby	68-71-73-71	283
John Huston	70-70-70-73	283
Peter Lonard	70-69-76-69	284
Bob Estes	75-67-72-70	284
Jesper Parnevik	73-70-71-70	284
Chad Collins	74-69-70-71	284
J.J. Henry	71-72-69-72	284
Mark Wilson	73-71-67-73	284
Todd Hamilton	71-74-70-70	285
Michael Sim	72-73-70-70	285
Carl Pettersson	72-70-73-70	285
Tim Petrovic	71-72-72-70	285
Jeff Maggert	73-72-73-67	285
Nick O'Hern	69-73-72-71	285
Steve Marino	72-71-71-71	285
Jeff Overton	71-73-70-71	285
Kenneth Ferrie	70-73-67-75	285
Kent Jones	65-77-74-70	286
Matt Jones	70-74-71-71	286
Bob Tway	70-71-73-72	286
Chris Stroud	69-72-73-72	286
Cameron Beckman	68-73-72-73	286
Alejandro Canizares	72-73-70-72	287
Martin Laird	72-71-72-72	287
Michael Allen	71-71-72-73	287
Bob Heintz	72-74-69-73	288
Mathias Gronberg	69-74-74-71	288
John Riegger	73-72-70-73	288
David Duval	71-69-74-74	288
Gavin Coles	71-71-72-74	288
Joe Durant	72-73-72-72	289
Billy Andrade	75-71-73-70	289
Y.E. Yang	73-71-73-73	290
Jerry Kelly	71-72-75-72	290
J.B. Holmes	73-72-73-72	290
Robert Garrigus	70-76-68-76	290
Robert Gamez	72-74-73-71	290
Greg Kraft	72-74-75-69	290
Jeff Gove	70-73-73-75	291
Steve Lowery	70-71-76-74	291
Omar Uresti	73-72-73-73	291
Briny Baird	74-72-74-71	291
Chris DiMarco	72-72-77-70	291
Todd Demsey	72-72-78-69	291
Chip Deason	71-71-75-75	292
Matt Kuchar	71-75-72-74	292
Justin Bolli	72-74-72-74	292
Kevin Stadler	73-72-74-73	292
Tim Wilkinson	74-72-73-73	292
Jason Dufner	70-73-71-78	292
John Rollins	74-71-75-72	292
Brian Davis	74-72-74-72	292
Marco Dawson	71-71-73-78	293
David Lutterus	74-72-73-75	294
Brett Quigley	73-73-76-72	294
Frank Lickliter II	72-74-73-76	295
Olin Browne	72-71-74-79	296
Eric Axley	71-75-76-74	296
Will MacKenzie	75-70-79-72	296
Lee Janzen	70-75-74-78	297
Jason Gore	71-73-77-76	297
Rod Perry	70-76-77-74	297
J.P. Hayes	74-72-78-73	297
Kyle Thompson	70-76-76-79	301

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

PILCOWA Standings

MIGS	4	1
Century Insurance	3	1
Diamond Auto Care	2	2
Aon Insurance	2	2
C&R/NRG	1	2
Olivos/Reliance Const.	1	3
San Miguel Light	0	4

Genesis Cup Standings

Daniel	2	0
Isaiah	2	1
Jeremiah	1	1
Ezekiel	0	3

Charley's hosts the 2008 Melbourne Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Horse racing enthusiasts who miss the sport back home will get a chance to see one of the biggest races in the world when Pacific Islands Club hosts the 2008 Melbourne Cup today.

PIC general manager Kieran Daly said widescreen television sets will be placed at Charley's Cabaret to allow Saipan residents to watch the prestigious race live from Melbourne.

"This may be their first time to watch the Melbourne Cup and we promise to give them a wonderful experience through our various side events during the races," Daly said.

The Melbourne Cup is Australia's major annual thoroughbred horse race. It's the race that stops a nation, as Australians trooped to Victoria Racing Club, on the Flemington Racecourse in Melbourne to see three-year-olds and over race in a distance of 3,200 meters and join the one-day festivities.

The event even had Prince and Princes of Wales Charles and Diana watching the races in 1985.

Melbourne Cup can be compared to the Kentucky Derby in the U.S. and the Royal Ascot in the United Kingdom in terms of the number of people in attendance during the races. The record crowd was 122,736 in 2003.

The Melbourne Cup offers more than AU$3 million to the top finisher and a coveted trophy, which is made of 34 pieces of gold hand beaten over 200 hours. The Cup contains 1.65kg of 18-carat gold valuing the cup at $125,000 dollars.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Two riders in action in last year's Melbourne Cup at the Victoria Racing Club on the Flemington Racecourse in Melbourne.

Daly said one of the side events will be the "Calcutta Sweepstakes," which will feature lotteries and auctions with half of the proceeds going to a worthy cause.

Daly explained PIC will be selling tickets at an affordable prize. Owners of winning tickets will then get a chance to bid for horses which will compete in the races. The highest bidder will get the rights on the raffled horse and if that horse finishes in the Top 3, the highest bidder wins half of the total bid money.

Daly said there will be more than 10 races during the event and they will brief participants about the horses so they would know where to put their bet.

The PIC general manager is encouraging the public, particularly horse racings fans, to join the event, as the "Calcutta Sweeptakes" will also serve as a fundraiser.

Part of the proceeds of the event will be given to Saipan students who want to continue their education at the Northern Marianas College.

"We already met with some NMC officials and discussed this fundraising activity. We will be meeting them again in the next few months to talk about the selection criteria for students who will earn scholarships through this event," Daly said.

He added that PIC will be doing the sweepstakes every year to ensure that more Saipan students will get a chance to pursue higher education.

Besides the lotteries and auctions, PIC will also host its own version of Melbourne Cup's "Fashions On The Field" on which prizes will be given to best-dressed male and female racegoers, and to the one with the best hat.

Individuals interested to join the fundraiser will only pay an entrance fee of $35, which will cover the cost of lunch buffet.

The event will run from 10:30am to 3:30pm.

For more information, contact PIC Concierge at 234-7976.

60-80 expected for Memorial Classic

The Refaluwasch Golf Association expects 60-80 players will tee off in the Inaugural Memorial Classic set this Saturday, Nov. 8, at the Marianas Country Club.

Tournament director Jess Wabol said he is hoping that the island's golf clubs will be well represented in the Memorial Classic, which this year takes the place of RGA's traditional Turkey Shoot.

The Memorial Classic, which honors RGA's departed members Plas Tagabuel, Sid K. Peter, and Tony Taitano, will have a show time of 6:30am with tee time set an hour later at 7:30am.

Cash prizes and a bevy of in-kind gifts await winners of the Memorial Classic, which will have two categories—double peoria and low gross.

Wabol said the low gross category will have two divisions—men's and women's—with first place taking home $300, second $200, and third $100.

Low net double peoria, meanwhile, will have a bigger bounty as first place nets $500, second $300, and third $200.

There will also be a hole-in-one prize in hole No. 16 with RGA putting up a $1,000 bounty. Closest to the pin competitions in holes No. 6, 8, and 12 will also be up for grabs.

Participants can also win door prizes during the awards banquet immediately following the tournament.

MARK RABAGO
Tournament director Jess Wabol and the rest of the Refaluwasch Golf Association are expected to host 60-80 players in this Saturday's Inaugural Memorial Classic at the Marianas Country Club.

Wabol said like the Turkey Shoot of previous years, a portion of the proceeds from the Memorial Classic will be given to a school. The lucky school this year is Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School.

Entry fee for the tournament is $100 and those interested can make their checks out to Refaluwasch Golf Association.

For more information about RGA's 2008 Memorial Classic, contact Wabol at 233-3673, Ed Tenorio at 285-3305, Charlotte Camacho at 664-3400, Adam Hardwicke at 483-2326, George Cruz at 483-4655, and Martin Dalsaso at 286-6323.

The Memorial Classic is sponsored by a number of companies and individuals, namely Kautz Glas, Reps. Heinz Hofschneider, Ed Salas, and Ray Palacios, and Speaker Arnold Palacios, Torres Brothers, Tropix Garden, Ben Jones and family, Kae Poong, Delta Management Corporation, Radio Com, PL's Water Company, Marianas Health Services, John L. Babauta, Sen. Luis Crisostimo, Yuna Golf Range, PTI, Saipan Stevedore, Saipan Shipping, I-Connect, Coco Restaurant, DFS, COP, Saipan Grand Hotel, Hyatt, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, MARPAC, PTC, Fresh Marker, Coca-Cola, and Marianas Country Club. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Nov. 12 deadline for 2008 PIC softball tourney

Teams interested in joining the 15th Annual PIC Thanksgiving Softball Tournament have until Nov. 12 to register for the co-ed slowpitch event will be held from Nov. 14 to 16 at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Each team is allowed to have a maximum of 20 players in its roster, but there should be at least two female players on the field at all times.

Entrance fee is $180. The tournament will have a double-elimination format.

Registration forms can be picked up at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium or at the Pacific Islands Club.

The tournament's defending champion is No Ka Oi, which changed its name to Shell Marianas this year.

No Ka Oi won last year's championship after a come-from-behind 11-10 victory over Natibu.

The 2007 champion swept the elimination round, before putting its title bid in danger when Natibu took a 9-3 lead in the championship match after four and a half innings.

But No Ka Oi No made five runs at the bottom of the fifth and Julian Camacho, leading off at the bottom of the seventh, scored on a Roy Celis RBI double to force the game into an extra inning.

Pinch-hitter Joey Dela Cruz completed No Ka Oi's recovery when had a sacrifice fly at the bottom of the extra inning allowing Ton Camacho to score the winning run.

Besides No Ka Oi and Natibu, 10 other teams joined last year's tournament. The list include third placer Total Chaos, No. 4 Saipan Crew Boats, Pacific Trading, Last Minute, Team CREES, Falcons, PIC Guam, 670, Ambyth Shipping, and Shell.

For more information about the Thanksgiving Tournament, contact Cole Pritchard or Lindsey Sosovec at (670)235-6231 ext. 5147 or e-mail to seaexec@picsaipan.com.

The Top 3 finishers in the tournament will receive prizes. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

Juancho Mendoza tops Halloween 8-ball

Juancho Mendoza didn't drop a game in taking the USS Peleliu Club Halloween 8-Ball Tournament championship Saturday.

James Kintaro just fell short with his own undefeated run through the losers' bracket.

Mendoza raced to the top of the winners' bracket, getting by John Mongami, edging out Nolan Cultura, and outdueling Taylor Watanabe.

Watanabe bested Kintaro and Annie Tesiro to set up the winner's bracket showdown.

Mendoza has been known for years in Saipan pool circles for consistently being one of the best players. The other players were in top form, but he was just a little better.

After losing his first game to Watanabe, Kintaro just kept getting better with each game.

He eliminated Franz De Luna, then eked out a long win over Cultura. Their game was more like a chess match, with both players trying not to give their opponent an easy shot. Mongami's seven-ball run didn't slow him down and Watanabe also fell short, having to settle for third place. Mongami had handed a second loss to Ron Chisato and Tesiro.

With one loss already in the double-elimination tournament, Kintaro needed to beat Mendoza twice for the championship. He may have already been thinking about that second game, as he easily pocketed his balls but forced the 8-ball to rim out of the side pocket.

Mendoza gratefully pocketed the win and the first-place money. He and Kintaro also got Budweiser and Bud Light chairs. The Top 3 finishers got trophies and cash prizes.

"We didn't get our 16 players," said Ken Phillips of USSP. "Maybe 7pm was too early. We waited more than an hour to start, but there were still latecomers. We try to accommodate everybody, but were just finishing the first round when they came."

More pool was on tap last night with the Monday 8-ball tournament, which started at 8pm. The entry fee was a budget-friendly $5.

"It's good practice for a chance to win a turkey and cash at our annual Marianas Turkey Shoot on Nov. 26," said Phillips.

For more information about USSP's Halloween 8-Ball Tournament, contact Ken or Rose Phillips at 233-1984.

Last year, Rolly Villanueva won the Halloween 8-Ball Tournament after besting a 16-player field.

Villanueva roared through the 8-ball winners' bracket, defeating Ryan Odicta, Ed Suzuki, and Victor S. Hocog in quick fashion before dismissing Ed Manucdoc in the championship to win the Hallow's Eve event. ***(USSP)***

Charley's hosts the 2008 Melbourne Cup

Horse racing enthusiasts who miss the sport back home will get a chance to see one of the biggest races in the world when Pacific Islands Club hosts the 2008 Melbourne Cup today.

27

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Titans still perfect, beat Green Bay in OT

Rob Bironas got a second chance at redemption in overtime Sunday, kicking a 41-yard field goal with 9:36 to go that kept the Tennessee Titans the NFL's last unbeaten team with a 19-16 victory over the Green Bay Packers.

24

MBA storms to semifinals, MCS, SDA advance

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Second-seed Marianas Baptist Academy led two others to the semifinals of varsity division of the 2008-2009 Coalition of Private Schools Volleyball League after cruising to straight sets win at the start of the playoffs yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The MBA Stormz whipped Saipan International School-Green, 25-16, 25-13, to move into the semifinals along with Mt. Carmel School and the Seventh Day Adventists, which also topped separate foes in straight sets.

MBA's Twin Towers Charlie Jo and Richard Park were too much to handle for the much smaller and leaner Geckos spikers.

Jo had several kills in the first set to help MBA control the game, while Park held his ground, blocking SIS spikers on many occasions.

Jo loosened up a bit in the second set, as he was somehow bothered by his sneakers. Jo committed several errors either over hitting the ball or losing it while going for a toss.

He left the court midway in the second set with SIS catching up and hoping to force a deciding third set.

Jo returned with a new pair of shoes and the Geckos weathered the Stormz, cutting the lead to one, 12-13.

But that was the closest that SIS could get, as Jo and Park went back to business on the net, while Jenny Sasamoto had several good serves that started MBA's rally.

Jo and Park alternately pounded the ball on the net,

See MBA on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MBA's Charlie Jo, right, goes up for a kill against SIS defenders during their playoff game in the varsity division of the 2008-2009 Coalition of Private Schools Volleyball League yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Century, Reliance upset foes

Olivos/Reliance's Edmark Mendoza goes for a layup against Diamond Auto Care's Brendo Talania during their game in the Inaugural 2008 PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League Sunday night at the CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Upsets marked Sunday's resumption of action in the Inaugural 2008 PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League as Century Insurance and Olivos/Reliance Construction stunned separate foes at the CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan.

Century set the theme of the night surprising pacesetter MIGS, 98-94, in the first game, while Olivos/Reliance pulled off a 93-85 victory over Diamond Auto Care in the second.

It was Century's third win in a row after bowing to Aon Insurance in opening day of the inaugural league, which took a break Saturday in observance of All Saints Day.

MIGS took a big 125-122 overtime win over C&R

See CENTURY on Page 26

Jeremiah bounces back in Genesis Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Defending champion Jeremiah outclassed Ezekiel, 82-78, Saturday night at the CIM-FCC Basketball Court in Gualo Rai to recover from its debut loss in the CIM-FCC Inter-Color Basketball League-3rd Genesis Cup.

Jeremiah dropped its first game against Daniel, 77-94, and met tough opposition in its second assignment to Ezekiel.

Despite getting double-digit outputs from three players in the first half, Jeremiah led by only four, 40-36, at halftime. Dante Olivos finished with 11 first-half points for Jeremiah, while Boy Garcia

See JEREMIAH on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Amor Casabuena, seen here in a file photo, scored 20 points in Jeremiah's 82-78 win over Ezekiel Saturday night in the CIM-FCC Inter-Color Basketball League-3rd Genesis Cup.

By MARK HEISLER
(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

Just like 1984-85, Lakers remain green with envy

Seems like old times ..

Old times are good in Lakerdom—well, a lot of them, anyway—and the best of all were in the 1984-85 season, the one this season resembles in so many ways.

The 1984-85 season was the one in which the Lakers ended the Celtic Curse after nine losses in the Finals, capturing the first of three titles in four seasons to make it Showtime's decade.

Then, as now, the Lakers were coming off a humiliating loss to the Celtics.

In the 1984 Finals, as opposed to last spring, the Lakers had already served notice they were better, leading in the last minute of Games 1-4 but blowing 2 and 4.

That was the series in which Lakers Coach Pat Riley didn't call timeout and Gerald Henderson stole James Worthy's pass, when Magic Johnson dribbled the clock out, Kevin McHale garroted Kurt Rambis, the Lakers wilted in steamy Boston Garden in Game 5, forced a Game 7 there but then went quietly.

That was when Johnson came home, locked himself in and wouldn't even talk to his mother on the phone.

Then, as now, the Lakers didn't come back merely hoping to win a title, they wanted to win it over the Celtics.

"That was the longest summer of our lives," says Laker scouting director Bill Bertka, then Riley's assistant. "From the first day of training camp to the last game in Boston, our whole team was focused on the Celtics."

Of course, the 1985 Finals started with Boston's 148-114 Me-

See JUST on Page 26